
TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

License and other notices

Description

The comic book that follows is Gnosis Pharmacology, the ninth volume of the comics series The Tales of Gnosis College (the "Tales"). It was originally published in serial form at EroticMadScience.com in 2015 and 2016.

The Tales are written and commissioned by Iago Faustus, Ph.D. (a pseudonym) and illustrated by Lon Ryden.

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Questions about the license and requests for waivers of the license's conditions may be directed to Dr. Faustus. He can be reached at faustus@eroticmadscience.com.

The Creators

Iago Faustus is a former academic employed in the private sector. He runs the website EroticMadScience.com, where the Tales and a large variety of other material related to the trope of mad science are published. He also publishes a philosophy blog at Pyrosophy and images blogs at Hedonix and Infernal Wonders.

Lon Ryden is a professional artist. He has a website for his art at erosarts.net and also publishes his work on DeviantArt at erosarts.deviantart.com.

Adult Content Notice

We are utterly unapologetic about the fact that throughout the Work explicit and bizarre sexual situations are intertwined with outlandish philosophical conceits. We feel obliged to request, however, that if you are not of legal age to view such material, or if you reside in a jurisdiction that makes such material unlawful to own or view, that you not read, copy, or transmit the Work. Thank you!


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NUMBER I
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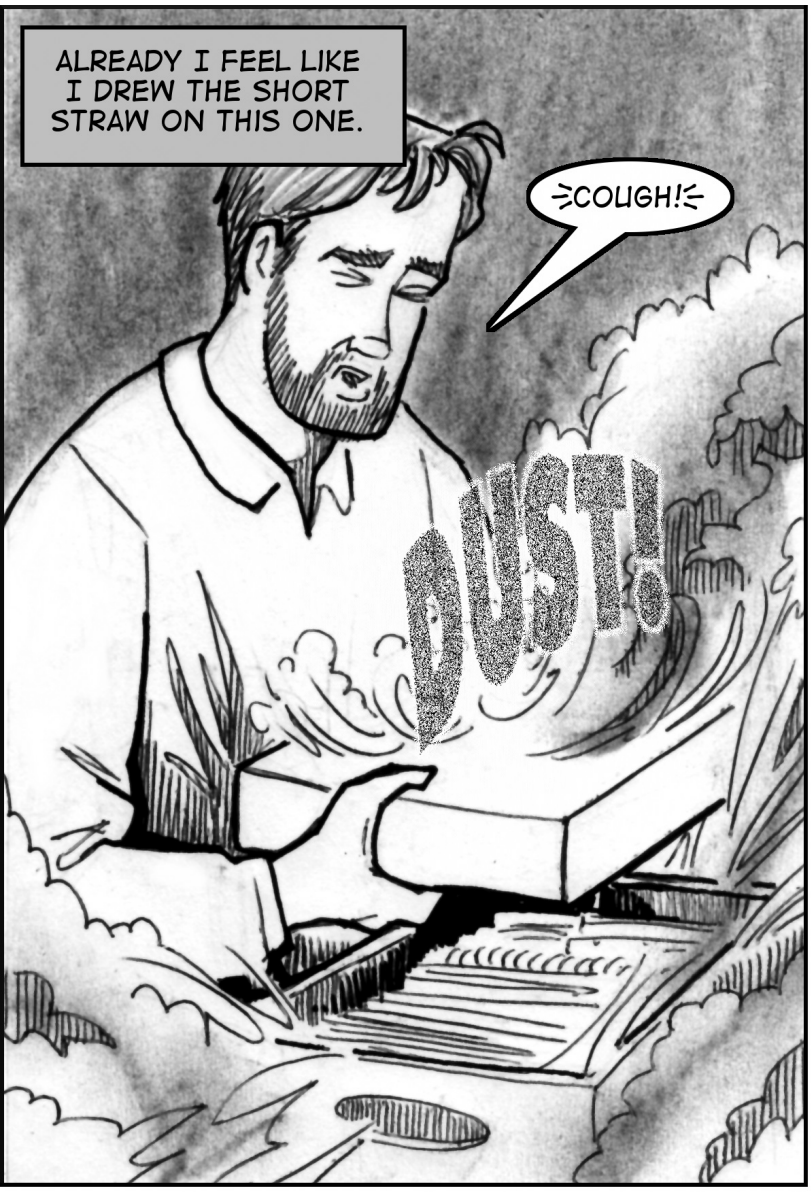

WRITING HISTORY IS NOT SIMPLY TRANSCRIBING THE NEWS FROM THE PAST.
HISTORY IS CREATED OUT OF ***PRIMARY DOCUMENTS*** LEFT BY THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH HISTORICAL EVENTS.
IN THIS CLASS YOU'LL BE DOING EXACTLY THAT FOR AN HISTORICAL FIGURE RIGHT HERE AT GNOSIS COLLEGE.
IT WILL REQUIRE A LOT OF WHAT THE GERMANS CALL *SITZFLEISCH* TO WORK THROUGH ALL THE LETTERS AND REPORTS AND JOURNAL ENTRIES...
BUT WITH READING AND SYMPATHETIC RECONSTRUCTION, YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO TURN DEAD PAPER INTO LIVING KNOWLEDGE OF OUR COLLECTIVE PAST.
pat pat
YOU WILL BE BEGINNING WITH PIECES OF GNOSIS COLLEGE'S PAST.



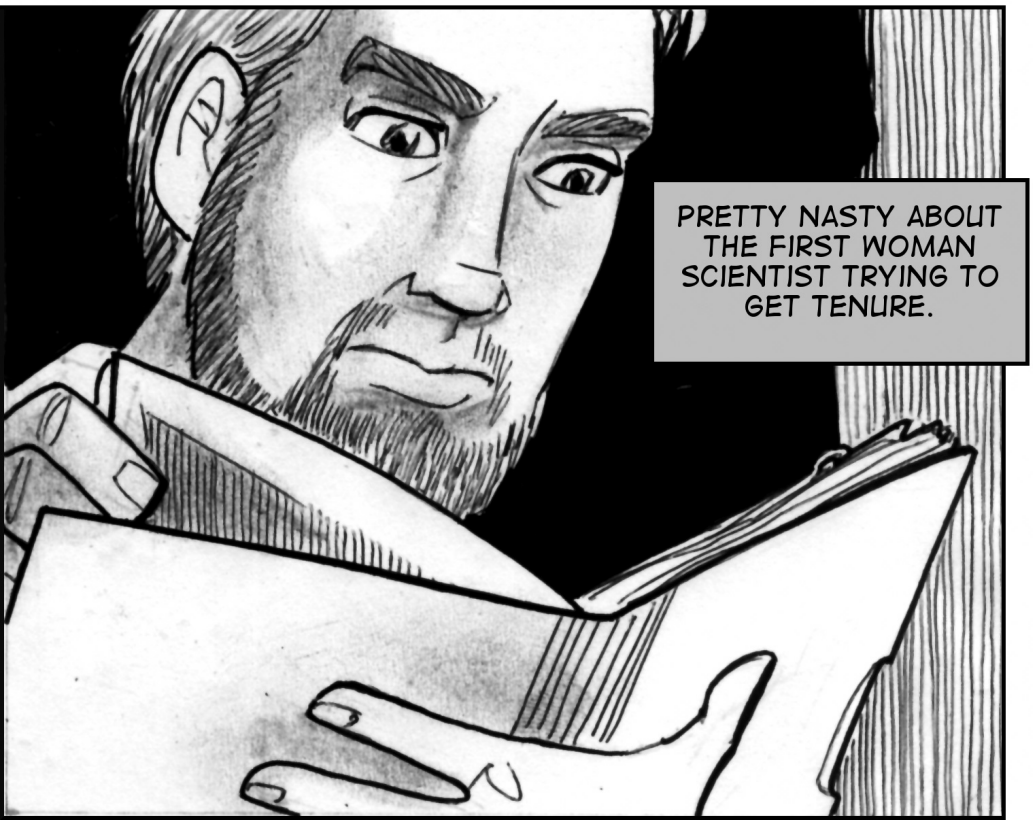
"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 1

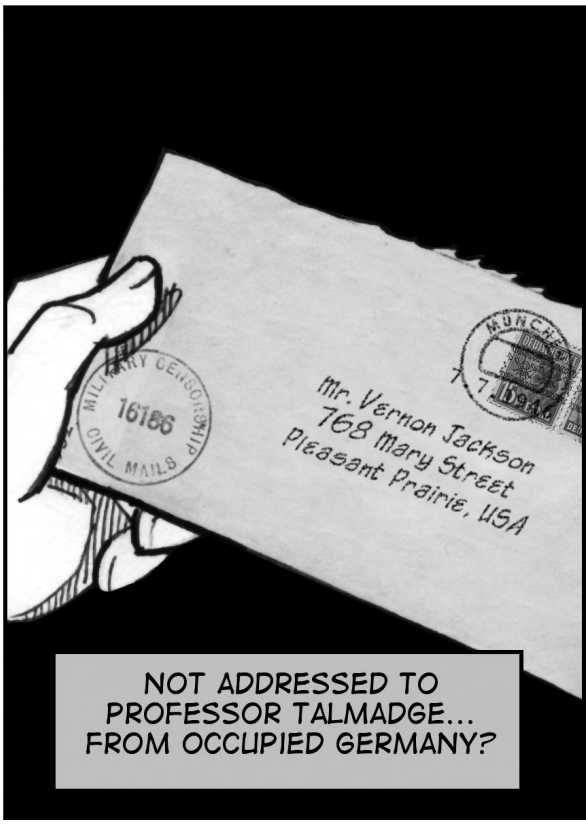
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS


...WHICH I SURE WON'T BE WORKING IN.
NOW REMEMBER, MR. CHASE YOU'RE ALLOWED TO KEEP THE TALMADGE PAPERS AT YOUR ASSIGNED CARREL, BUT NOT ELSEWHERE. THEY ARE MOST CERTAINLY NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE LIBRARY BUILDING.
I UNDERSTAND. OF COURSE.


ALREADY I FEEL LIKE I DREW THE SHORT STRAW ON THIS ONE.
=COUGH!=
DUST!


BILLS... INVOICES... LECTURE NOTES... COMMITTEE REPORTS... CRAP... MORE CRAP...

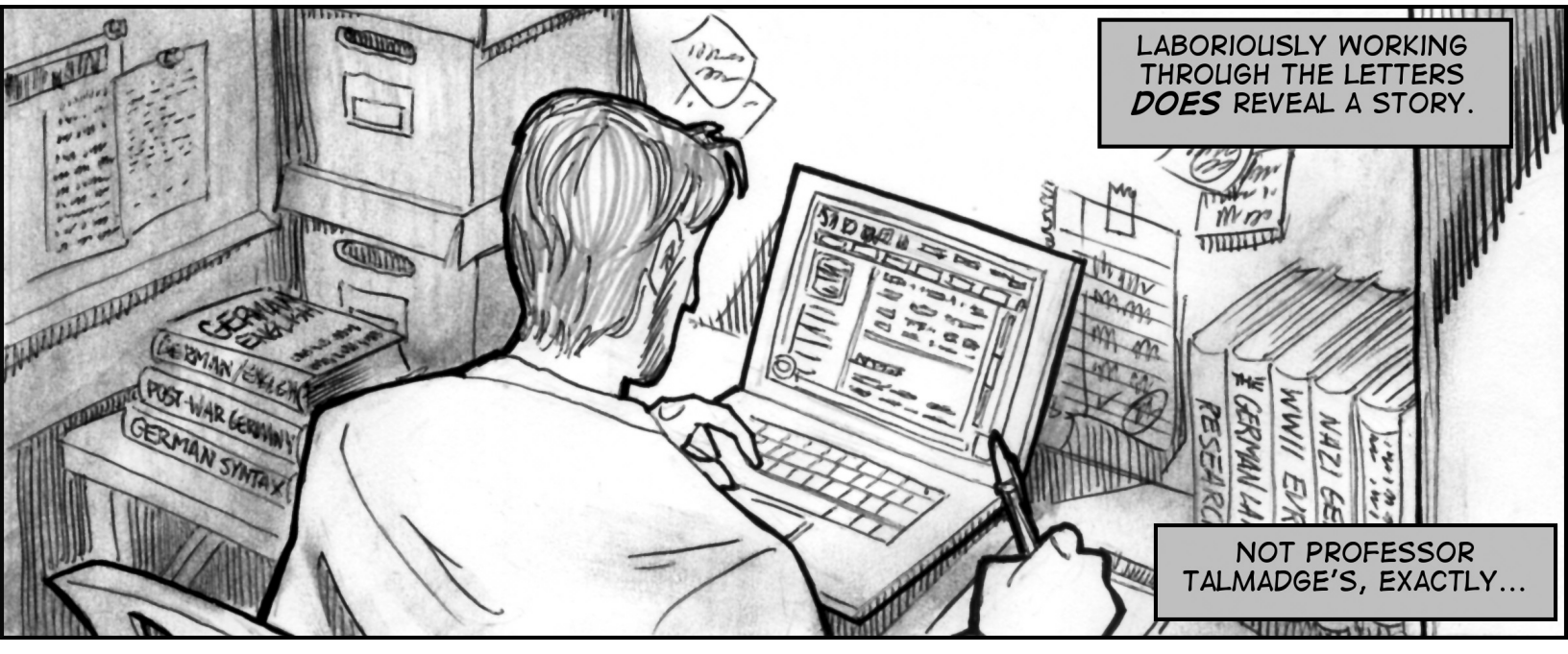

PRETTY NASTY ABOUT THE FIRST WOMAN SCIENTIST TRYING TO GET TENURE.


MILITARY CENSORSHIP
16186
CIVIL MAILS
Mr. Vernon Jackson
768 Mary Street
Pleasant Prairie, USA
NOT ADDRESSED TO PROFESSOR TALMADGE... FROM OCCUPIED GERMANY?


THERE ARE MANY LETTERS, ALL IN GERMAN, TO THIS MYSTERIOUS ADDRESSEE. ALSO SOME JOURNALS NOT IN PROFESSOR TALMADGE'S HANDWRITING.


THE TWO JOURNALS APPEAR TO BE WRITTEN IN DIFFERENT CIPHERS.


THE ADDRESS IS A NOW-EMPTY HOUSE VERY MUCH ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS.

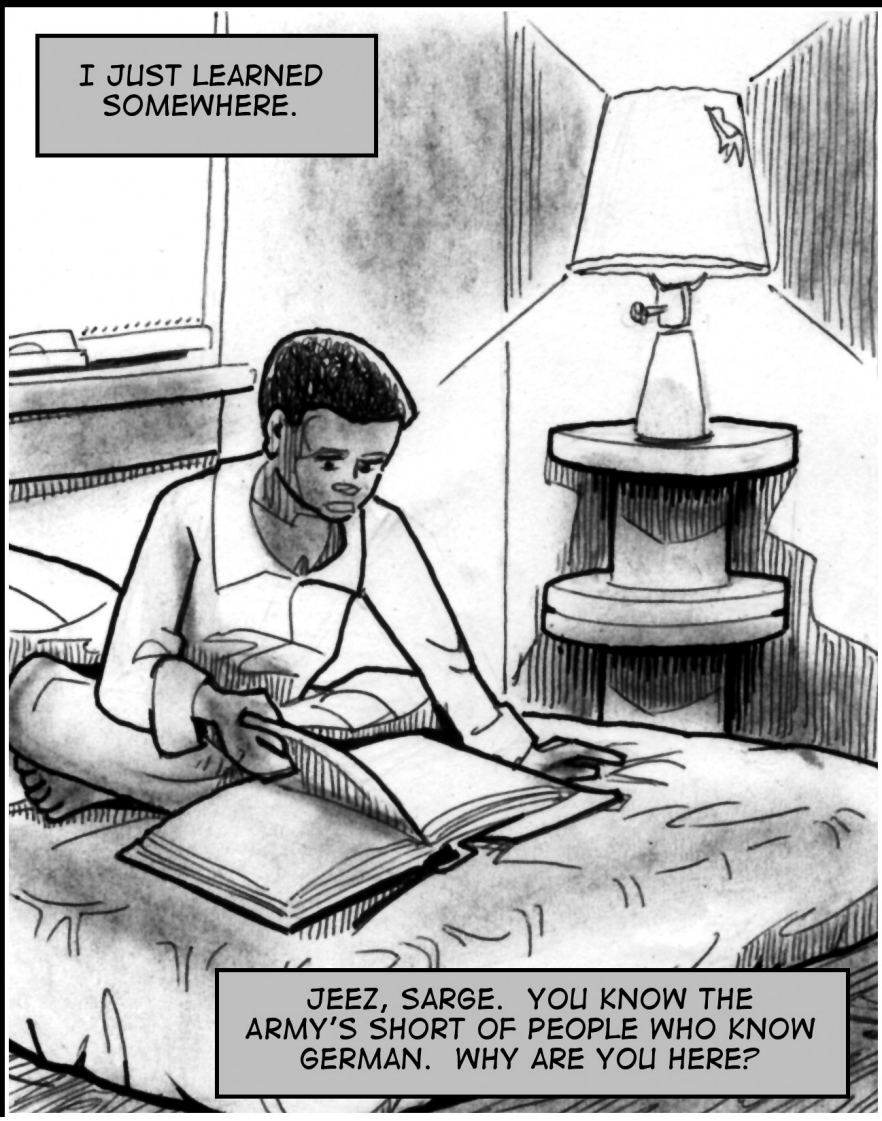

LABORIOUSLY WORKING THROUGH THE LETTERS *DOES* REVEAL A STORY.
GERMAN/ENGLISH
POST-WAR GERMANY
GERMAN SYNTAX
NAZI
WWII
RESEARCH
NOT PROFESSOR TALMADGE'S, EXACTLY...

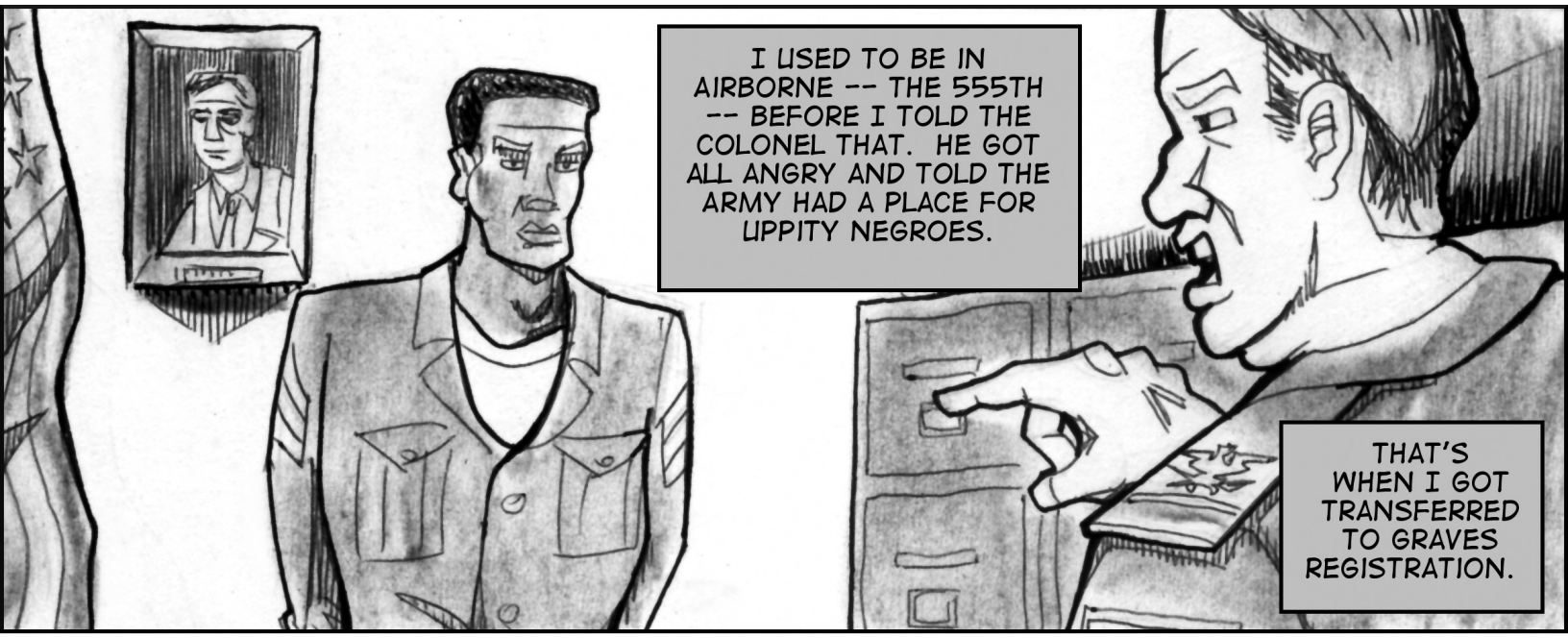

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCONIA, APRIL 1945.
WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH THESE PEOPLE, SARGE?
THEIR COUNTRY'S *FINISHED*, BUT THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING AND GETTING KILLED.
GOT ANOTHER ONE OVER HERE, SERGEANT.
JUST CRAZY, I GUESS.
JESUS... THIS POOR KID LOOKS LIKE HE WASN'T EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO SHAVE.
WHAT'S THAT IN HIS POCKET?
IT'S A LETTER. THIS KID WAS WRITING TO HIS FATHER.. HE'S TRYING TO COMFORT HIM ABOUT THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER...
YOU CAN READ THAT KRAUT WRITING, SARGE? HOW?


MAINTENANCE
STAFF ONLY

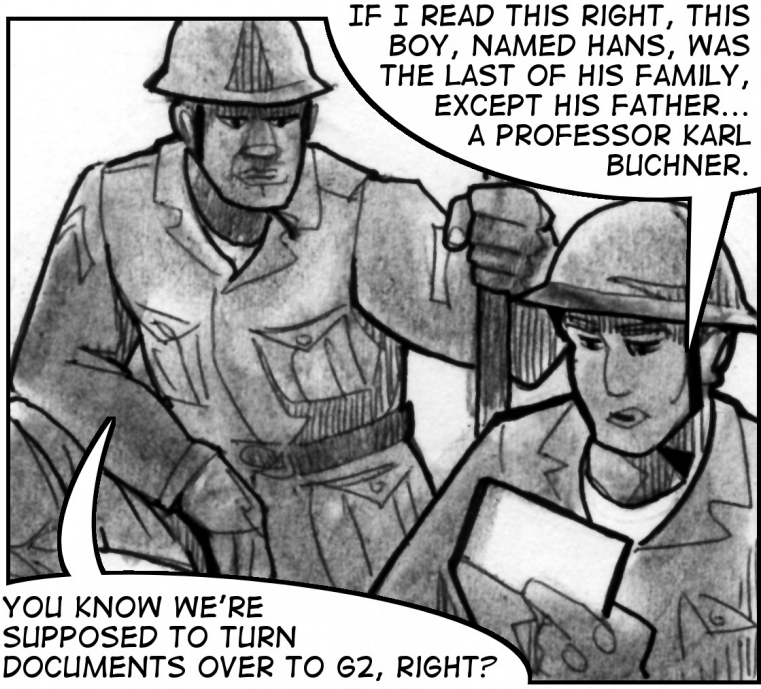

GERMAN
FOR THE

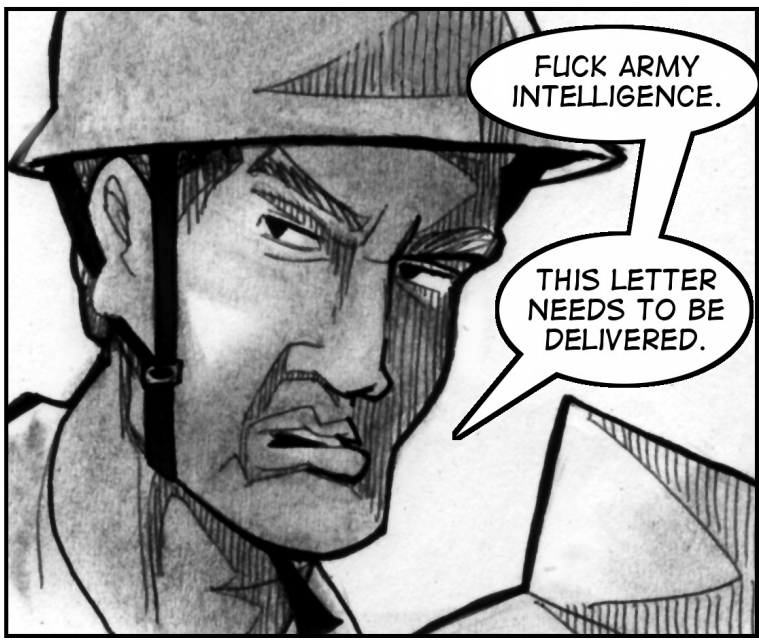

GERMA
FOR TH


I JUST LEARNED SOMEWHERE.
JEEZ, SARGE. YOU KNOW THE ARMY'S SHORT OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW GERMAN. WHY ARE YOU HERE?


I USED TO BE IN AIRBORNE -- THE 555TH -- BEFORE I TOLD THE COLONEL THAT. HE GOT ALL ANGRY AND TOLD THE ARMY HAD A PLACE FOR UPPITY NEGROES.
THAT'S WHEN I GOT TRANSFERRED TO GRAVES REGISTRATION.


THAT SO?
WELL, HE DIDN'T EXACTLY USE THE WORD "NEGRO," BUT YEAH, OTHERWISE THAT'S SO.

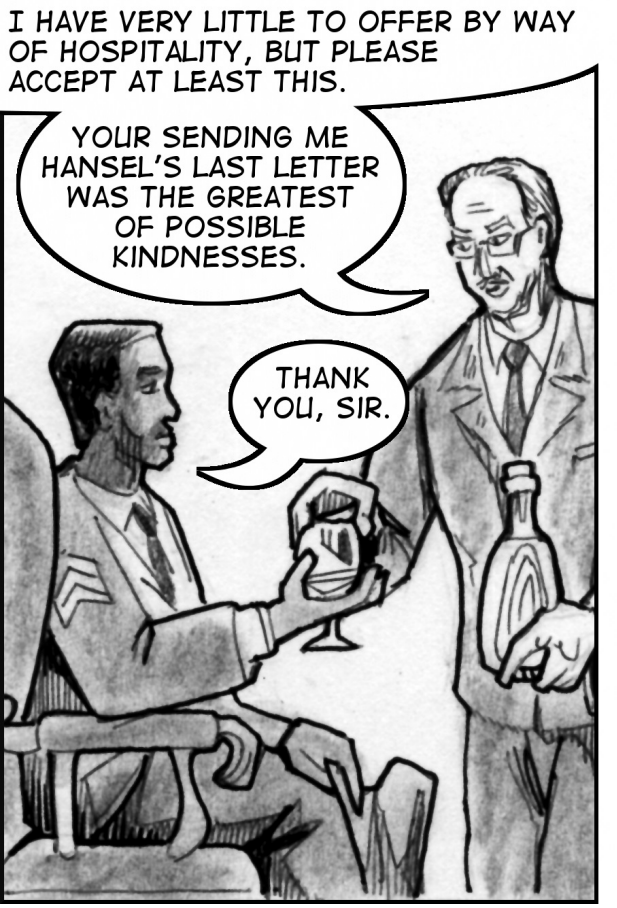

IF I READ THIS RIGHT, THIS BOY, NAMED HANS, WAS THE LAST OF HIS FAMILY, EXCEPT HIS FATHER... A PROFESSOR KARL BUCHNER.
YOU KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TURN DOCUMENTS OVER TO G2, RIGHT?

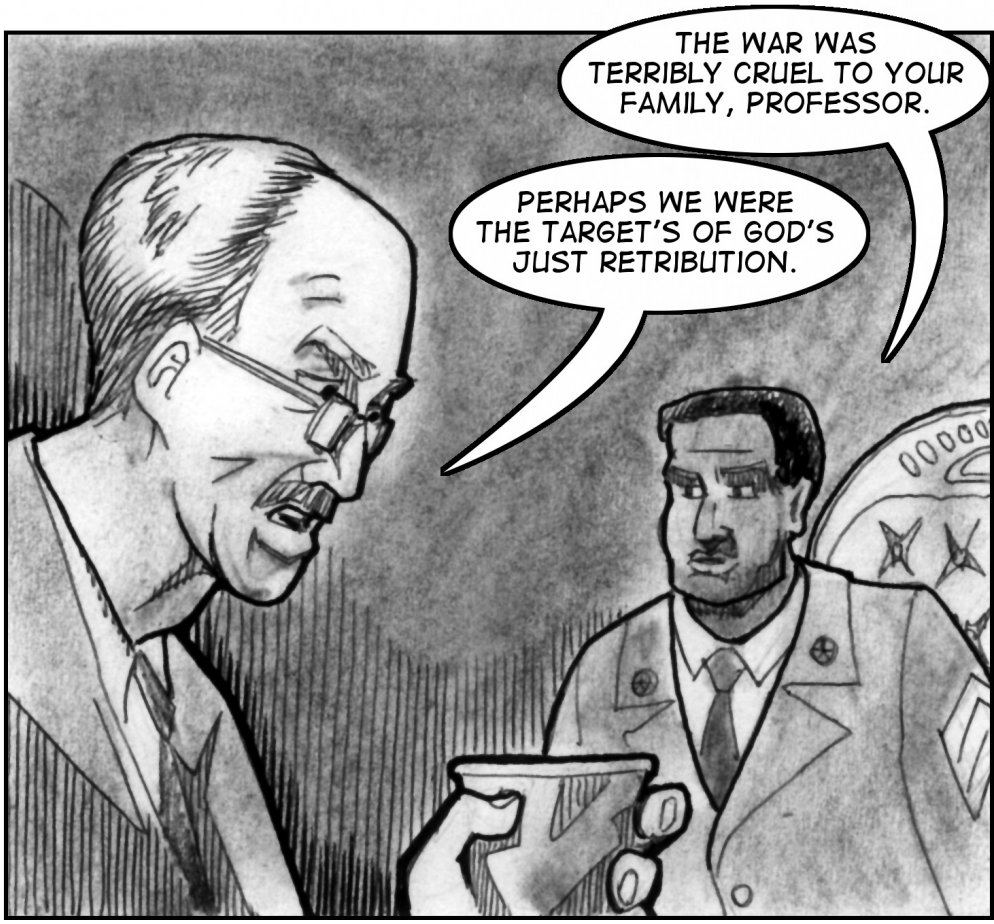

FUCK ARMY INTELLIGENCE.
THIS LETTER NEEDS TO BE DELIVERED.


ARCHIVES OF THE MAX PLANCK SOCIETY, PRESENT DAY.
EINE ARCHIVANFRAGE AUS AMERIKA, KARIN?
EIN GESCHICHTSSTUDENT NAMENS TAYLOR CHASE WILL WISSEN, OB WIR BRIEFE AN EIN BESTIMMTES MITGLIED DER GESELLSCHAFT AUS DER KWG ZEIT HABEN
NORMALERWEISE IST DAS EIGENTLICH NICHT UNSERE AUFGABE.
JA, GERDA. ABER ER BESTEHT DARAUF, DAS IN DEN BRIEFEN, WENN ES SIE ÜBERHAUPT GIBT, EINE ERGREIFENDE GESCHICHTE ZU FINDEN IST.
DOC-SCAN 5K


OUTSIDE MUNICH, LATE 1945.
SERGEANT JACKSON? THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING TO SEE ME.


IF I MAY SAY SO, PROFESSOR BÜCHNER, YOU SPEAK ENGLISH REMARKABLY WELL.
ACH. I WAS A TALENTED SCIENTIST ONCE. I EVEN HAD A FELLOWSHIP AT CAMBRIDGE BACK BEFORE THE *FIRST* WAR...
...BEFORE THE *SUICIDE* OF EUROPE.

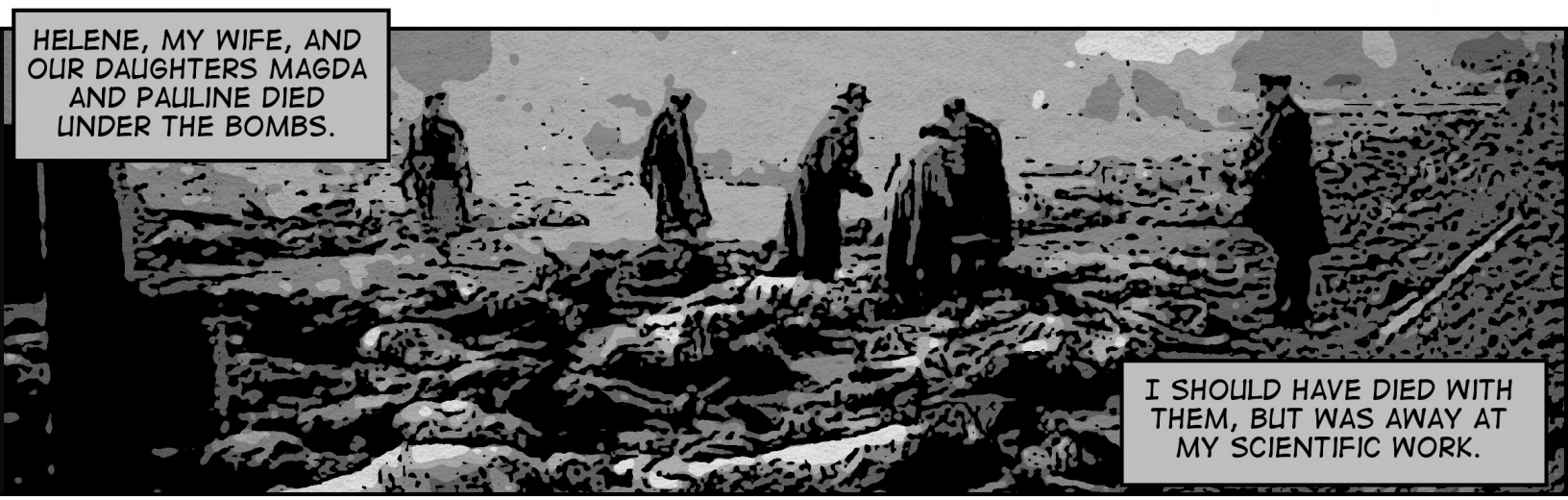

I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO OFFER BY WAY OF HOSPITALITY, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT AT LEAST THIS.
YOUR SENDING ME HANSEL'S LAST LETTER WAS THE GREATEST OF POSSIBLE KINDNESSES.
THANK YOU, SIR.


THE WAR WAS TERRIBLY CRUEL TO YOUR FAMILY, PROFESSOR.
PERHAPS WE WERE THE TARGET'S OF GOD'S JUST RETRIBUTION.

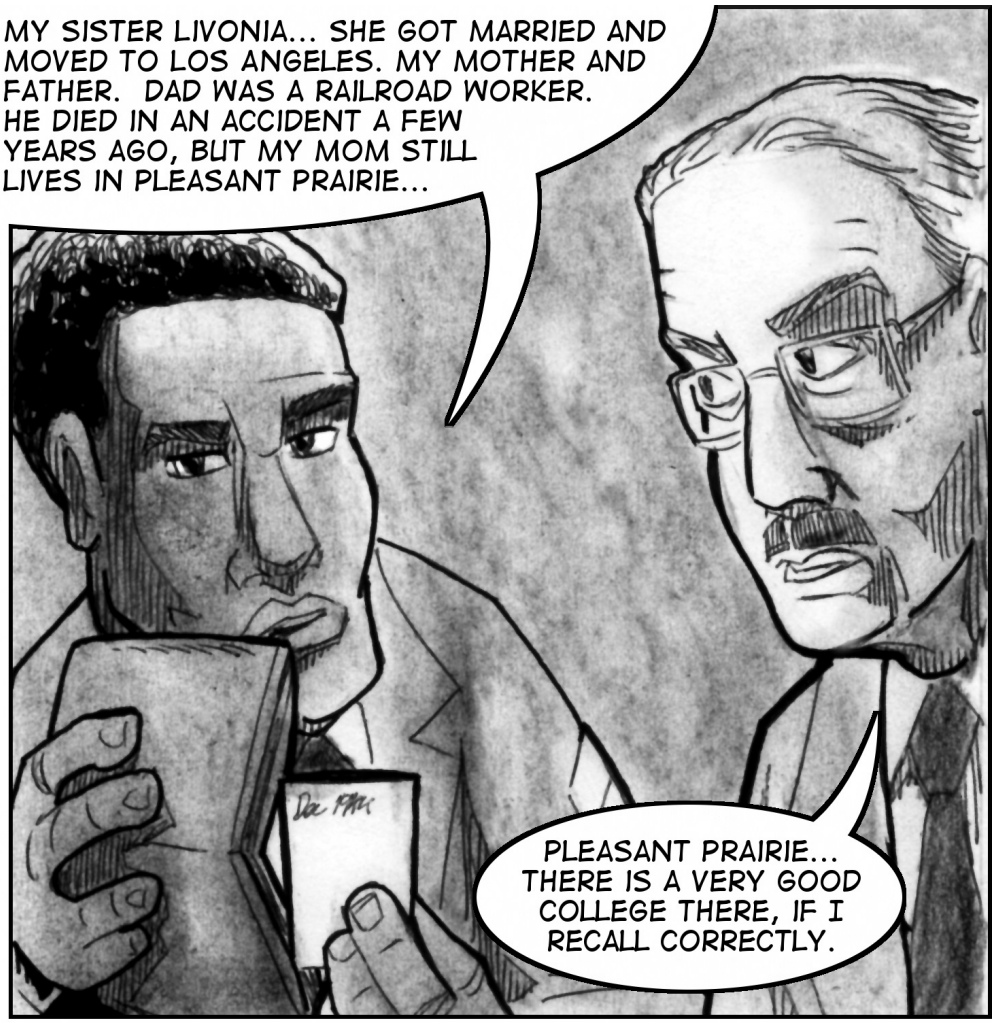

THOMAS, OUR OLDEST, WAS IN THE SIXTH ARMY, CUT OFF AT STALINGRAD.
WE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING OFFICIAL, BUT AFTER ENOUGH YEARS EVEN A FATHER'S HOPE WILL EXPIRE.
Паньшино
66A
Вертячий
XXXX
6-я
Калач-на-Дону
Карповка
62A
Сталинград
62-я
XXXX
64A
64-я
XXXX

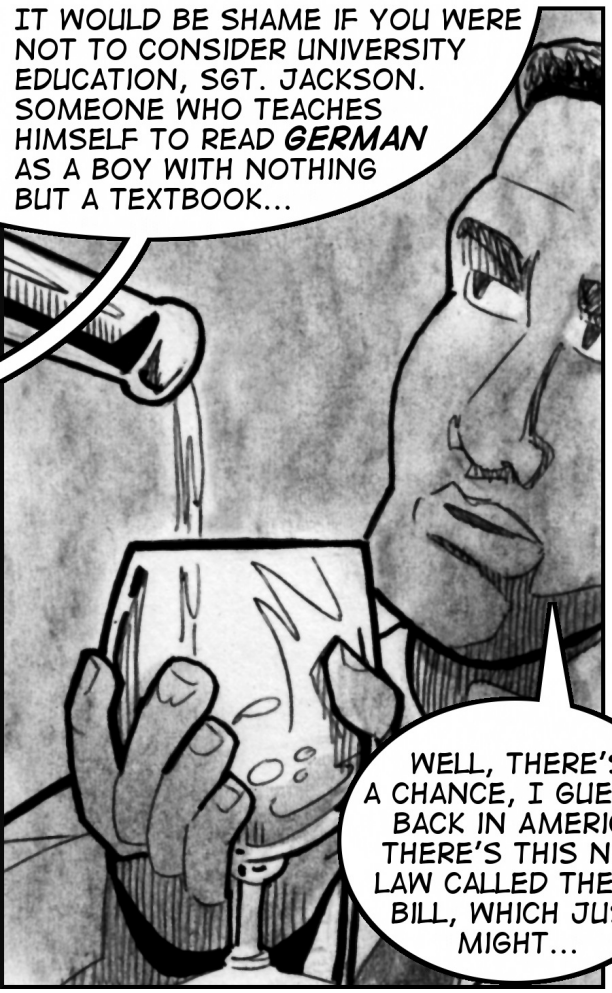

KURT, OUR NEXT SON, FELL FIGHTING TO DEFEND "FORTRESS" BRESLAU.
УКРАИНСКИЙ ФРОНТ
2 ВА
ГРУППА АРМИЙ „ЦЕНТР"
4 ТА
52 А
Бреслау
Крейцбург
Радомско
Радошице


HANSEL, AS YOU KNOW, WAS A POINTLESS SACRIFICE IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR.
Frankfurt
Wiesbaden
Hanau
Mainz
Aschaffenburg
Hammelburg
Schweinfurt
Gemünden
Bayreuth
Bamberg
Würzburg
Kitzingen
APR 5
Oppenheim
Worms
Mannheim
Fürth
Nuremberg
APR 20
Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad)
Prague
Pilsen (Plzeň)
Luxembourg
Trier
Thionville
SAAR
Saarbrücken
US 3rd ARMY (Patton)
US 7th ARMY (Patch)
US 6th ARMY GROUP
ARMY GROUP G (Hausser)
Ansbach
US 7th ARMY
Regensburg
APR 26
Helbronn
Stuttgart
Kirchheim
Ingolstadt
Donauworth
Landau
České Budějovice
C Z E C H O-
S L O V A K I A
B a v a r i a
Moselle
Spessart
Odenwald
Neckar
Danube
Bohemian Forest
Franconian Jura
Moldau (Vltava)


HELENE, MY WIFE, AND OUR DAUGHTERS MAGDA AND PAULINE DIED UNDER THE BOMBS.
I SHOULD HAVE DIED WITH THEM, BUT WAS AWAY AT MY SCIENTIFIC WORK.


I'M SO SORRY, PROFESSOR.
DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY, SERGEANT JACKSON?

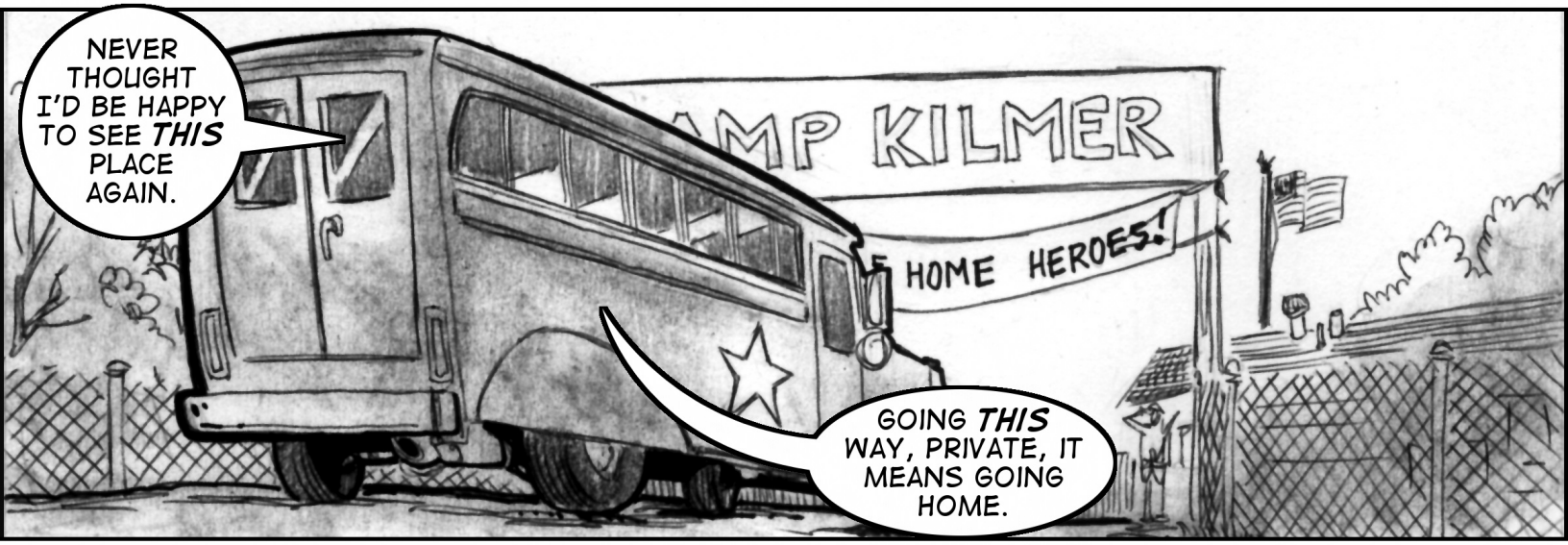

MY SISTER LIVONIA... SHE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED TO LOS ANGELES. MY MOTHER AND FATHER. DAD WAS A RAILROAD WORKER. HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT A FEW YEARS AGO, BUT MY MOM STILL LIVES IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE...
PLEASANT PRAIRIE... THERE IS A VERY GOOD COLLEGE THERE, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY.


IT WOULD BE SHAME IF YOU WERE NOT TO CONSIDER UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, SGT. JACKSON. SOMEONE WHO TEACHES HIMSELF TO READ ***GERMAN*** AS A BOY WITH NOTHING BUT A TEXTBOOK...
WELL, THERE'S A CHANCE, I GUESS. BACK IN AMERICA THERE'S THIS NEW LAW CALLED THE GI BILL, WHICH JUST MIGHT...

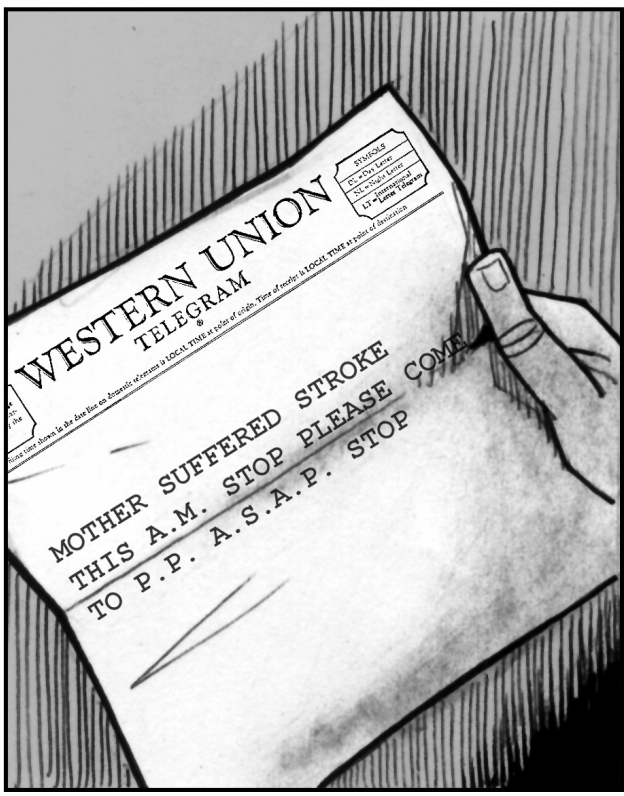

THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAVE, SERGEANT JACKSON.


SCIENTIFIC TEXTS... LECTURE NOTES...
DON'T YOU NEED THESE THINGS YOURSELF, PROFESSOR?
IN MY COUNTRY I'D SAY WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH WITH CHEMICALS.
BEST THAT MY PAPERS SHOULD FIND THEIR WAY TO SOMEONE WHO MIGHT LEARN AND DO GOOD WITH THEM, FOR A CHANGE.
I HAVE ONE REQUEST...
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO WRITE TO ME AND TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PROGRESS? IT WOULD BE A CONSOLATION.
I SHALL DO THAT, PROFESSOR. GOOD LUCK TO YOU.


GRUNDLAGE DER PSYCHO-PHARMAKOLOGIE.


NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE HAPPY TO SEE *THIS* PLACE AGAIN.
AMP KILMER
HOME HEROES!
GOING *THIS* WAY, PRIVATE, IT MEANS GOING HOME.


TELEGRAM CAME FOR YOU, SERGEANT.


WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM
MOTHER SUFFERED STROKE
THIS A.M. STOP PLEASE COME
TO P.P. A.S.A.P. STOP

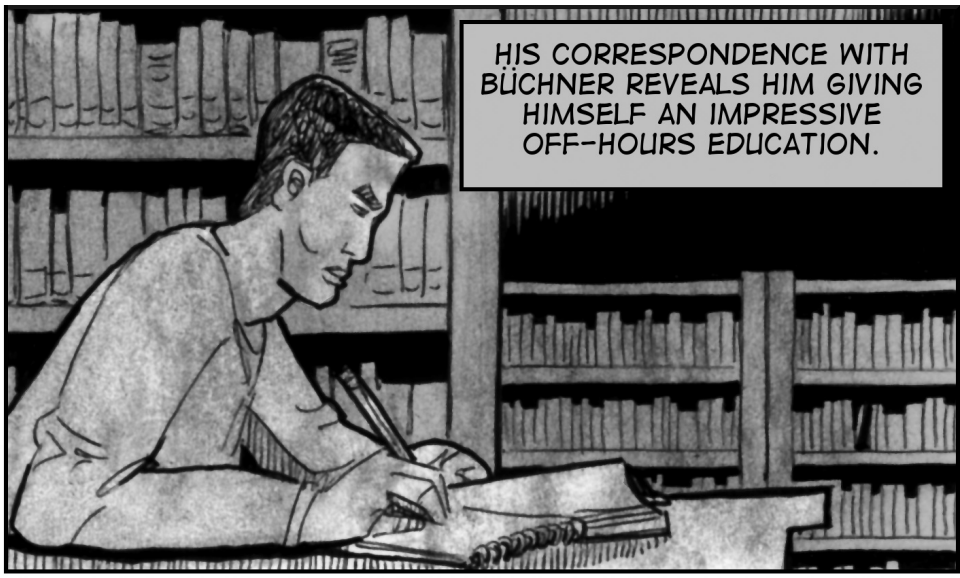

SO WHAT THEN, TAYLOR?
WELL, JACKSON NOW HAD AN INVALID MOTHER, AND HIS SISTER WAS MARRIED WITH A FAMILY OF HER OWN THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY. HE HAD TO SHELVE ANY PLANS TO GO TO COLLEGE.
WRIGHT

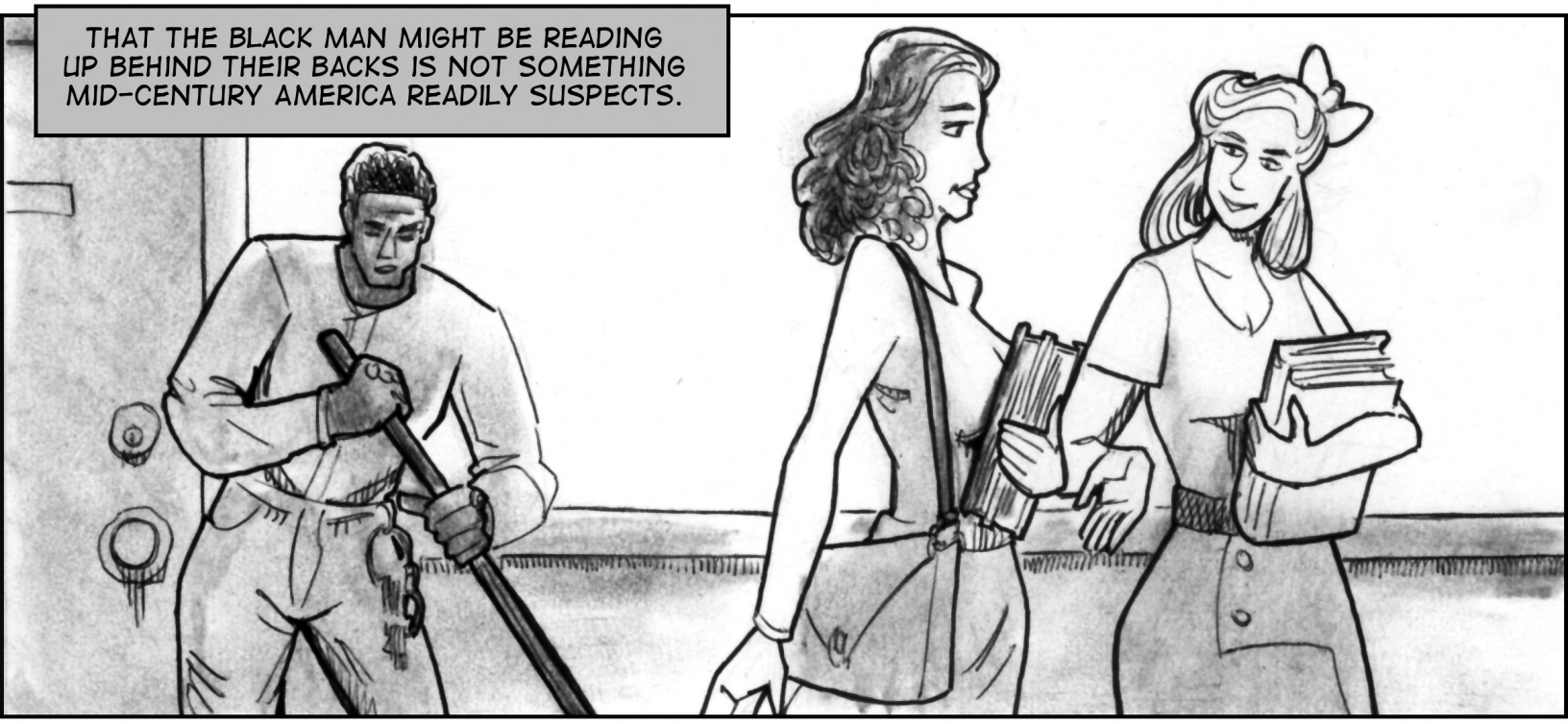

HE TOOK A MENIAL JOB TO SUPPORT HIS MOTHER.
CAUTION
IN A CRUEL IRONY IT WAS RIGHT HERE AT GNOSIS COLLEGE.


THE THING IS, PROFESSOR WRIGHT, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A JANITOR, HE AND PROFESSOR BUCHNER CONTINUED A VERY PERSONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVE CORRESPONDENCE.
I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME MORE INTERESTING HISTORY HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE.


I AGREE.
I'LL EVEN SEE IF I CAN'T HELP YOU SHAKE VERNON JACKSON'S OLD EMPLOYMENT RECORDS LOOSE FROM THE COLLEGE, *IF* THEY STILL EXIST...

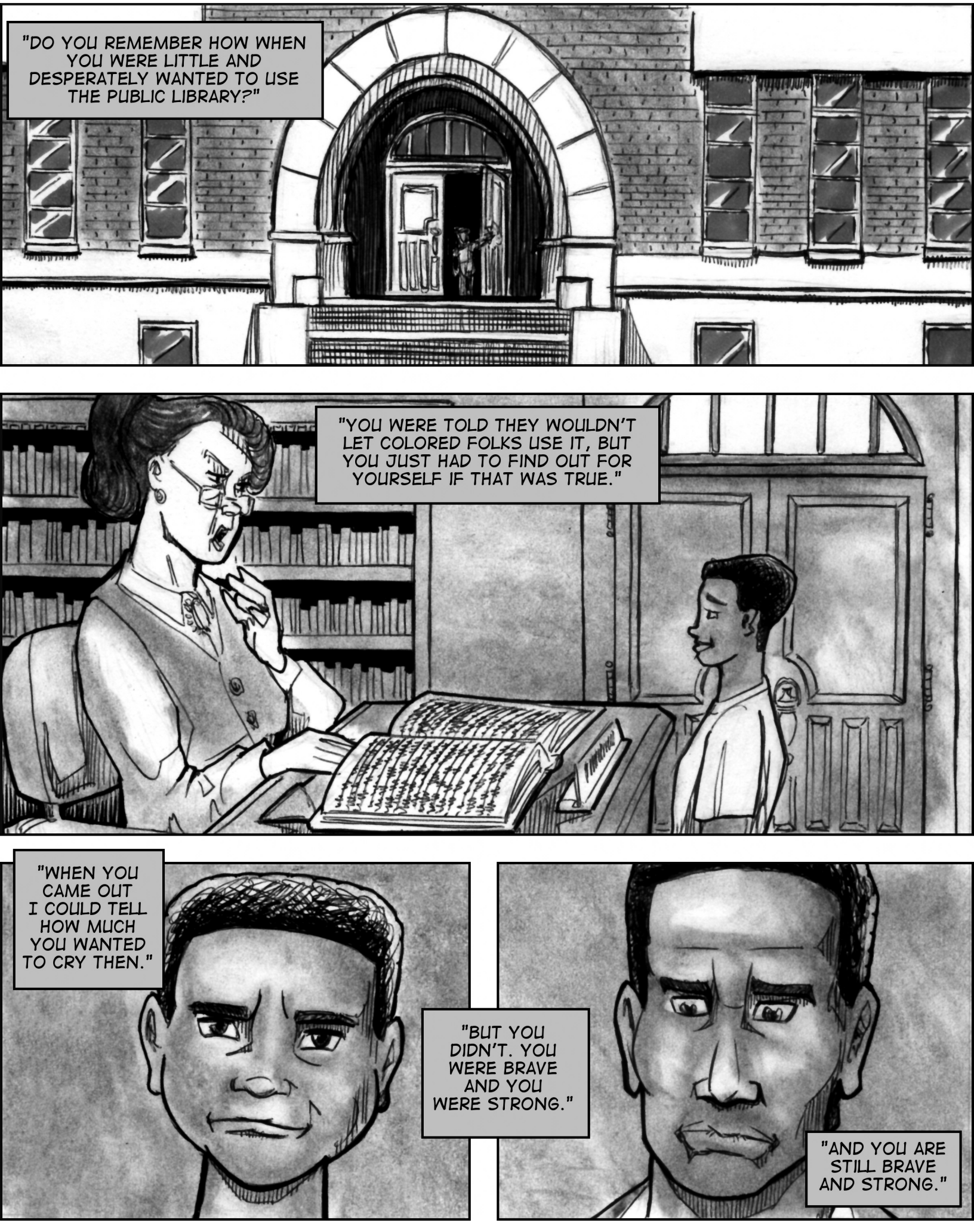

JACKSON'S JANITORIAL EMPLOYMENT COMES WITH AN UNEXPECTED BENEFIT.
ACCESS TO A LOT OF GNOSIS COLLEGE SPACES.


HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH BÜCHNER REVEALS HIM GIVING HIMSELF AN IMPRESSIVE OFF-HOURS EDUCATION.


THAT THE BLACK MAN MIGHT BE READING UP BEHIND THEIR BACKS IS NOT SOMETHING MID-CENTURY AMERICA READILY SUSPECTS.


JACKSON AND BÜCHNER'S CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT SCIENTIFIC MATTERS BECOMES EVER MORE ABSTRUSE.
I THINK IT WOULD FLUMMOX ME EVEN IF IT WEREN'T WRITTEN HALF IN FUCKING GERMAN.
Google


SOMETIMES THE CORRESPONDENCE REVEALS MORE PERSONAL THINGS.
I AM SURE YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU CAN, DR. GOLDFARB. MAY I SEE MY MOTHER NOW?
YES. OF COURSE. JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT SHE IS VERY WEAK.
204
MAMA...
VERNON.
NOW DON'T CRY, SON. THAT'S NOT CALLED FOR HERE.
WE HAVE BEEN ***PROMISED*** AN ETERNAL AND BETTER LIFE AFTER WE LEAVE THIS PAINFUL ONE BEHIND, AND I FOR ONE ***BELIEVE*** THAT PROMISE.
I KNOW, MAMA, I KNOW.
IT'S JUST THAT...


"DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE AND DESPERATELY WANTED TO USE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY?"
"YOU WERE TOLD THEY WOULDN'T LET COLORED FOLKS USE IT, BUT YOU JUST HAD TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF IF THAT WAS TRUE."
"WHEN YOU CAME OUT I COULD TELL HOW MUCH YOU WANTED TO CRY THEN."
"BUT YOU DIDN'T. YOU WERE BRAVE AND YOU WERE STRONG."
"AND YOU ARE STILL BRAVE AND STRONG."


AFTER HIS MOTHER'S DEATH JACKSON BEGAN TO MOVE HIS ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE LIBRARY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, BOY!
AND *THIS* WAS WHEN HE CROSSED PATHS WITH PROFESSOR TALMADGE...
WELL, UH, SOMEBODY LEFT THIS ALL UP HERE, AND I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE SURE...
GET ON OUT OF MY LAB, YOU...
JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU OUT, ***PROFESSOR.***
...MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T WORK HERE ANYMORE. GODDAMN DUMB NI...

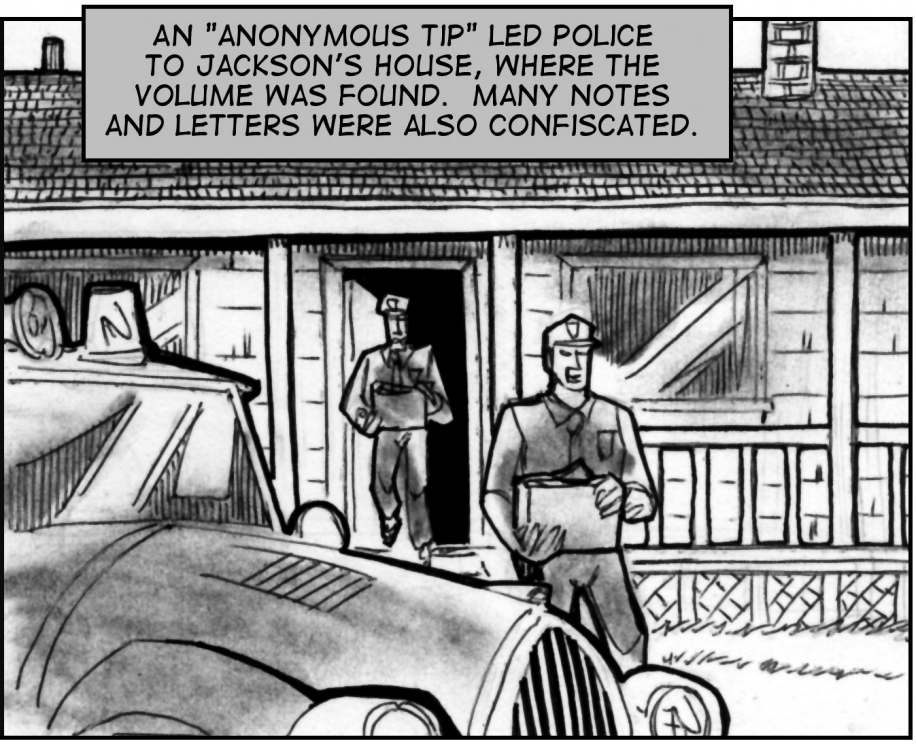

VERNON JACKSON, IS IT? I'M PROFESSOR TALMADGE.
PERHAPS WE, UH, GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT THE OTHER DAY. IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING INTERESTING IN MY LAB THE OTHER DAY.
OH?
CAUTION

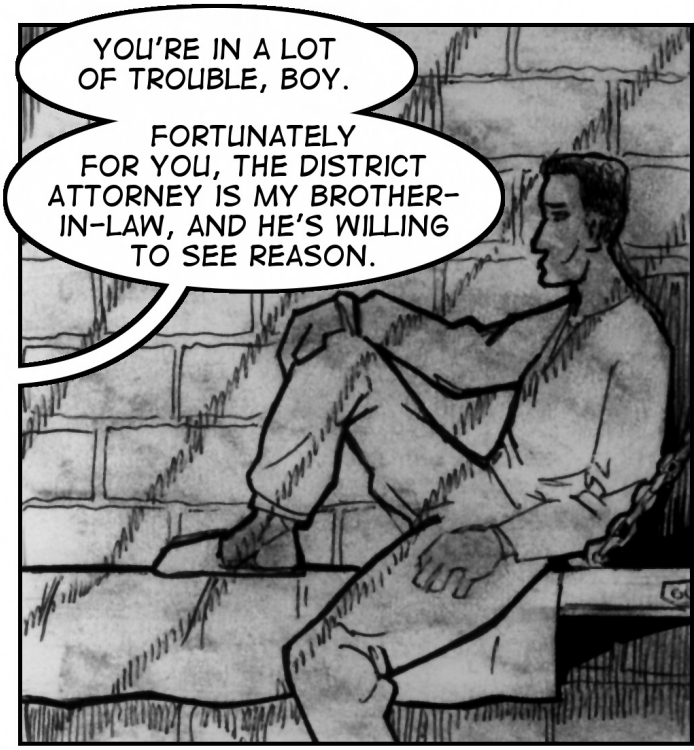

IT WOULD SEEM I RATHER UNDERESTIMATED YOU, VERNON. PERHAPS YOU AND I COULD... COLLABORATE.
I COULD TAKE YOU ON AS AN ASSISTANT.

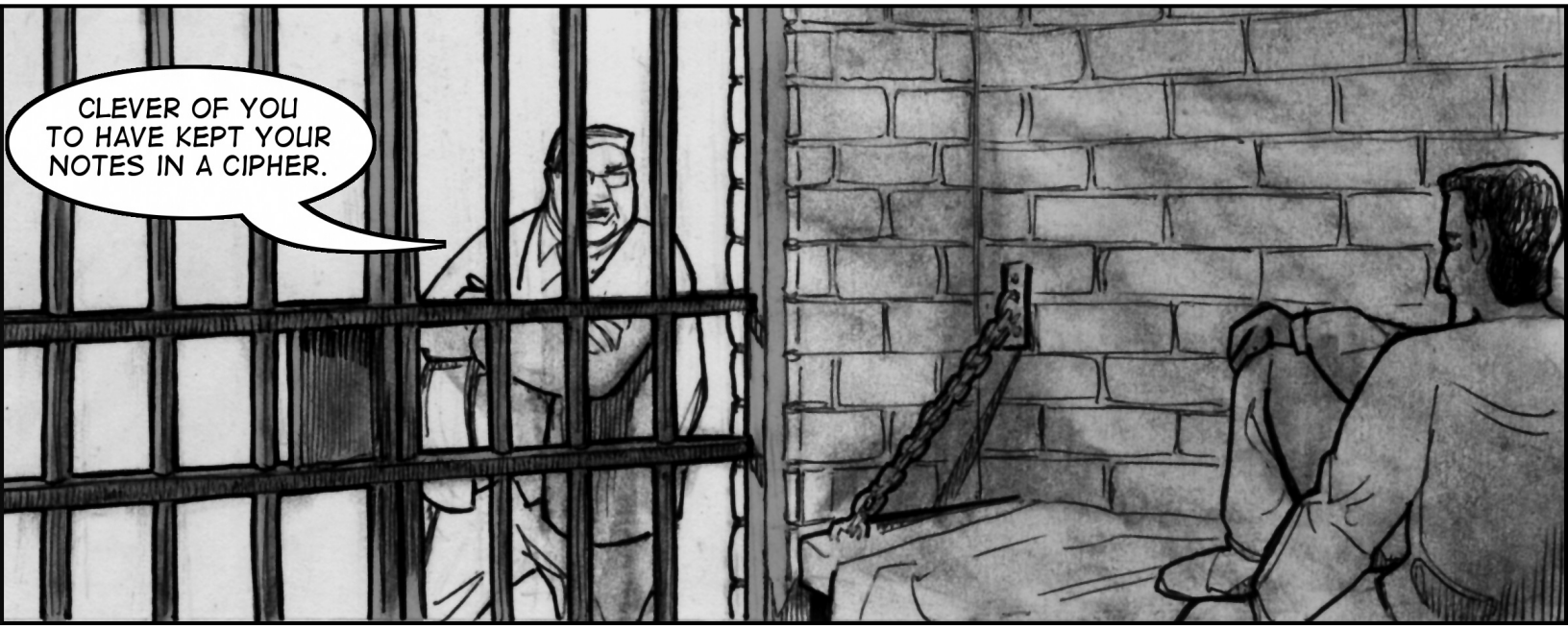

I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOTHING TO SHARE WITH YOU, PROFESSOR TALMADGE.


IS THAT SO?
PERHAPS YOU'LL SOON BE THINKING DIFFERENTLY.


THE REST OF THE STORY CAN BE FOUND IN PRESS ACCOUNTS AND COURT RECORDS.
A VOLUME OF THE ORIGINAL 18TH CENTURY PRINTING OF THE *ENCYCLOPÉDIE* WENT MISSING FROM THE GNOSIS COLLEGE RARE BOOKS ROOM.

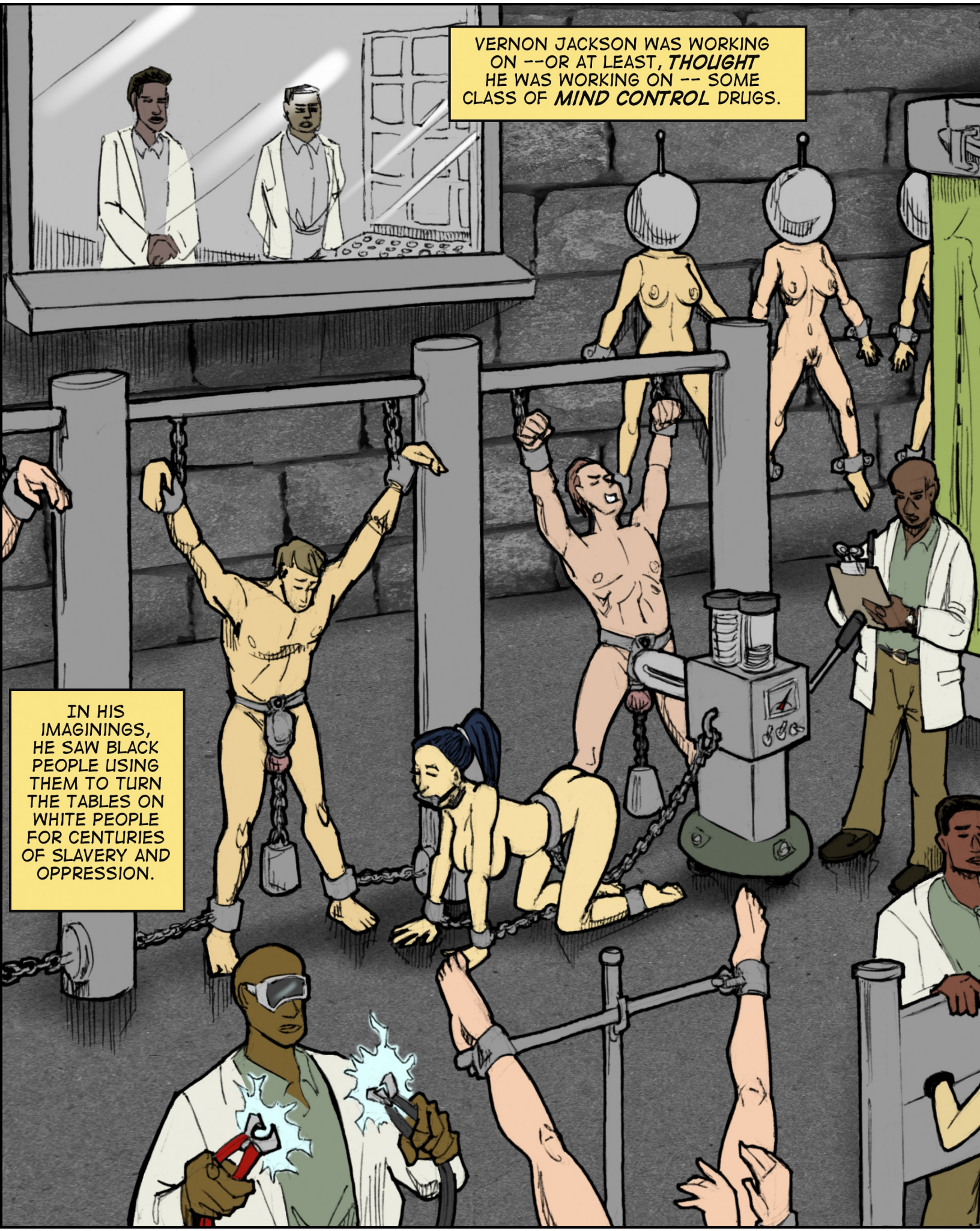

AN "ANONYMOUS TIP" LED POLICE TO JACKSON'S HOUSE, WHERE THE VOLUME WAS FOUND. MANY NOTES AND LETTERS WERE ALSO CONFISCATED.


YOU'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE, BOY.
FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND HE'S WILLING TO SEE REASON.


CLEVER OF YOU TO HAVE KEPT YOUR NOTES IN A CIPHER.

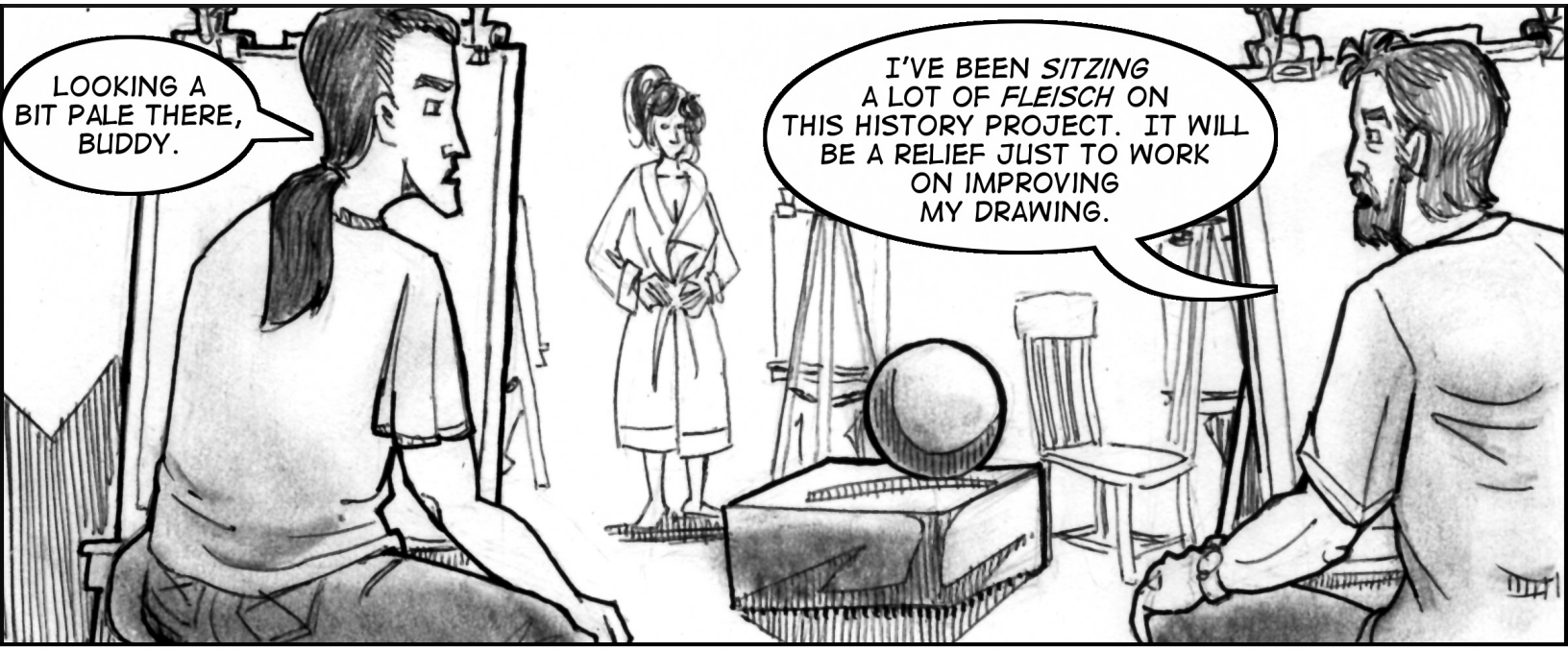

AFTER ALL THIS EXCITEMENT WE CAN'T JUST LET YOU GO. YOU'LL HAVE TO PLEAD TO YOUR GRAND LARCENY.
BUT YOU GIVE ME THE PLAINTEXT OF THIS NOTEBOOK AND, WELL, THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT PROBATION.
ANSWER ME, BOY! YOU DO THIS OR IT'S A LONG DAMN TIME IN PRISON FOR YOU.
MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME NEVER TO TELL A LIE.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO BEGIN NOW.
I DON'T THINK TALMADGE EVER GOT HIS PLAINTEXT.
IN THE END HE WENT TO HIS GRAVE AND THE PAPERS WENT INTO THE ARCHIVES.


AND VERNON?
HE NEVER MADE ANY DEAL. A LOCAL JUDGE SENT HIM TO STATE PRISON FOR SEVEN YEARS.
ONE YEAR IN, ANOTHER PRISONER KNIFED HIM TO DEATH OVER A PACK OF CIGARETTES.
JESUS. YOU'VE UNCOVERED QUITE A STORY.
DID *YOU* MANAGE TO MAKE ANYTHING OF THE CIPHERED NOTEBOOKS?
"ONE THAT LOOKED INTIMIDATING TURNED OUT JUST TO BE A SET OF PHONETIC SYMBOLS ENCODING ENGLISH -- EASY TO READ WHEN YOU LOOK UP THE ALPHABET AND FIGURE OUT THE TRICK."
"AND?"
THIS PART MAKES ME REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE.
TAYLOR, TO DO REAL SCHOLARSHIP WE NEED TO CONFRONT WHAT MAKES US UNCOMFORTABLE. TELL ME WHAT WAS IN THE NOTEBOOK.


VERNON JACKSON WAS WORKING ON --OR AT LEAST, *THOUGHT* HE WAS WORKING ON -- SOME CLASS OF *MIND CONTROL* DRUGS.
IN HIS IMAGININGS, HE SAW BLACK PEOPLE USING THEM TO TURN THE TABLES ON WHITE PEOPLE FOR CENTURIES OF SLAVERY AND OPPRESSION.


THE NOTEBOOK WASN'T ABOUT THE DRUGS AS SUCH...
BUT ABOUT HIS FANTASIES FOR USING THEM, AND THESE WERE... WELL...
REALLY *LURID* AND *DETAILED*.


VERNON JACKSON SPENT A LIFE OF SUFFERING AND INJUSTICE. THESE PRIVATE FANTASIES PLAY TO THE WORST KIND OF WHITE RACIAL FEARS.
PERHAPS WE OWE IT TO HIS POSTHUMOUS REPUTATION NOT TO...
TAYLOR, YOUR HEART IS IN A GOOD PLACE, BUT YOUR HEAD IS UP YOUR ASS.
VERNON JACKSON MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GREAT SCIENTIST, BUT HE WAS THWARTED AT EVERY TURN BY THE REALITIES OF RACE AND CLASS IN MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA. WHO AMONG US WOULD NOT BOIL WITH FRUSTRATION IN HIS PLACE? WEIRD, EVEN VILE FANTASIES ARE A PERFECTLY NATURAL REACTION TO WHAT HE HAD TO UNDERGO.
WE OWE IT TO HISTORY TO REMEMBER VERNON JACKSON AS A HUMAN BEING, NOT A PLASTER SAINT.
BUT THE GREAT SCIENTIST PART IS UNKNOWN, AND THAT'S ALSO PART OF HIS STORY.
WAS HE REALLY ON TO SOMETHING, OR JUST DRIVEN MAD? WE CAN'T KNOW IF WE CAN'T DECRYPT HIS SCIENTIFIC NOTES, AND I CAN'T DO THAT.
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.


LOOKING A BIT PALE THERE, BUDDY.
I'VE BEEN *SITZING* A LOT OF *FLEISCH* ON THIS HISTORY PROJECT. IT WILL BE A RELIEF JUST TO WORK ON IMPROVING MY DRAWING.



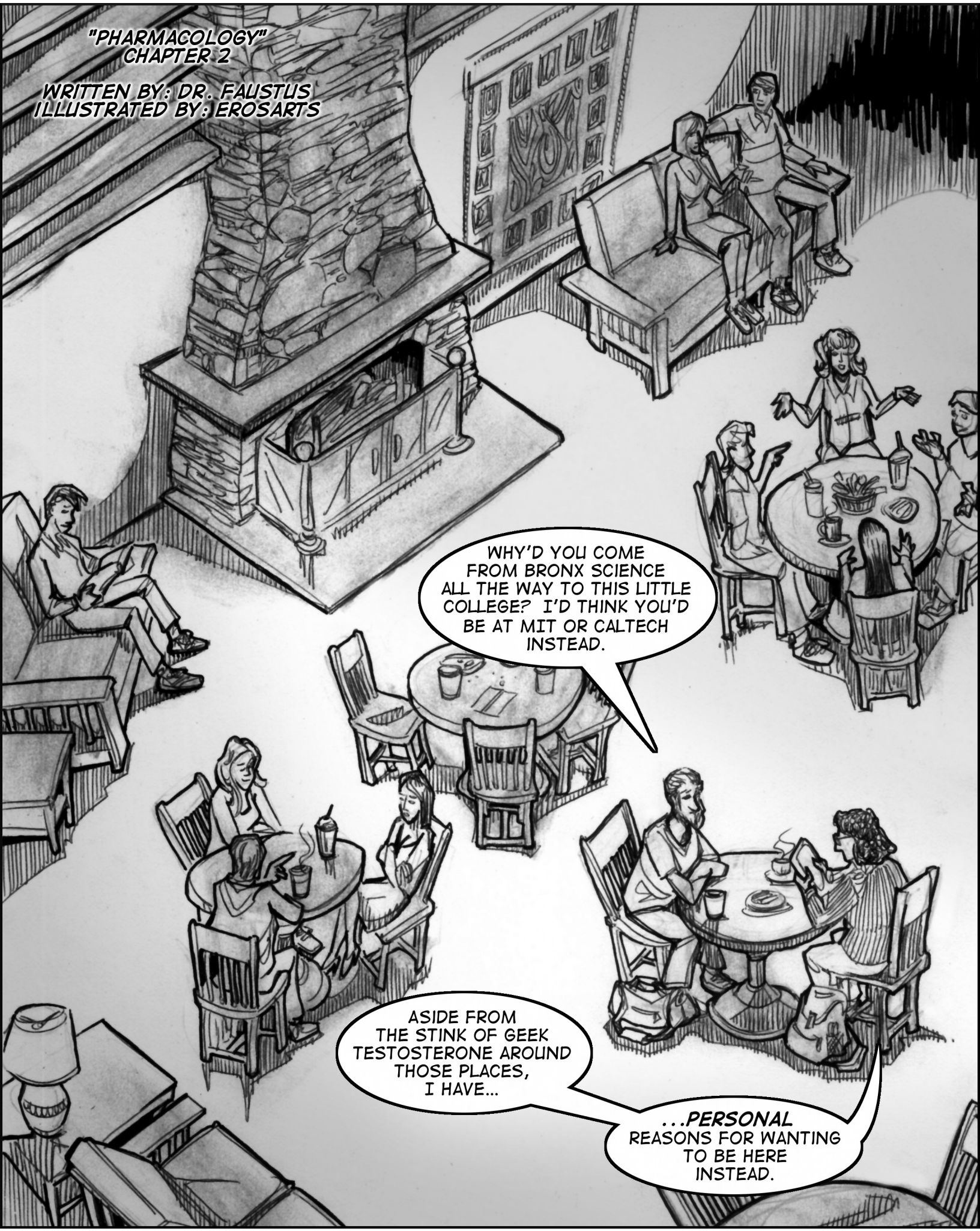

WOW! IS THAT REALLY THE LIBRARY LADY?
LET'S JUST FOCUS ON THE QUESTION "ANATOMY: HOW DOES IT WORK?"


T.CHASE
LUFTPOST
MR. TAYLOR CHASE
GNOSIS COLLEGE
S.U. 2634
PLEASANT PRAIRIE, U.S.A.
AN ACTUAL OLD-FASHIONED PAPER LETTER, TAYLOR?
IT'S FROM SOMEONE NAMED KARIN BAUER. SHE'S AN ARCHIVIST WHO'S BEEN HELPING ME OUT ON MY HISTORY PROJECT AND WANTS TO KNOW HOW IT'S GOING.
FURTHER ON SHE SAYS SHE HATES E-MAIL AND SOCIAL NETWORKS BUT LOVES LETTERS.
"SO ARE YOU GOING TO WRITE AN ***OLD-FASHIONED*** LETTER BACK TO HER?"
"OF COURSE, WHY NOT?"
"HOW ROMANTIC OF YOU."


WOMEN
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
CHARLIE: DUDE, SHE IS TOTALLY HITTING ON ME.
TAYLOR: TRY TO STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR ART.


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER II
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


MEDEA FELDSTEIN?
SO YOU'RE TAYLOR, EH? YOUR E-MAIL SOUNDED LIKE YOU HAD AN INTERESTING PROJECT.
PROFESSOR WRIGHT THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE CIPHER ON VERNON JACKSON'S SECOND JOURNAL.
PROFESSOR WRIGHT IS WAY COOL, SO I'M WILLING TO TAKE A LOOK AT LEAST.
I THINK VERNON JACKSON HAS A ***COMPELLING*** STORY THAT DESERVES TO BE TOLD, BUT I CAN'T COMPLETE IT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'S IN THE JOURNAL.
WELL, YOU HAVE A SHOT. HOW HARD CAN A MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY ENCRYPTION BE?
MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
GO AHEAD AND ASK. I'LL EITHER ANSWER OR I WON'T.
I READ IN THE *ILLUMINATOR* ABOUT YOUR TOP 100 FINISH -- AS A SOPHOMORE -- IN PUTNAM COMPETITION.

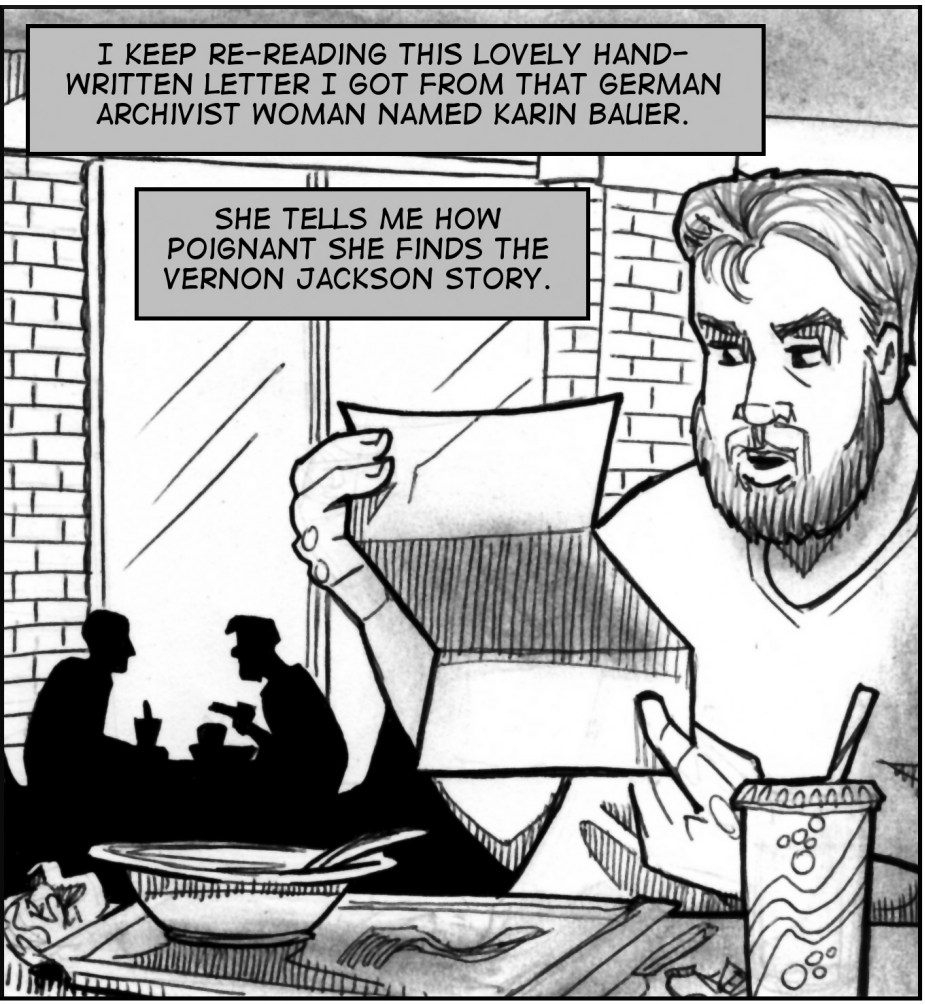

"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 2
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS
WHY'D YOU COME FROM BRONX SCIENCE ALL THE WAY TO THIS LITTLE COLLEGE? I'D THINK YOU'D BE AT MIT OR CALTECH INSTEAD.
ASIDE FROM THE STINK OF GEEK TESTOSTERONE AROUND THOSE PLACES, I HAVE...
...PERSONAL REASONS FOR WANTING TO BE HERE INSTEAD.


I'VE COPIED YOUR FILES.
I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING, BUT I'LL TRY AND LET YOU KNOW, OKAY, TAYLOR?

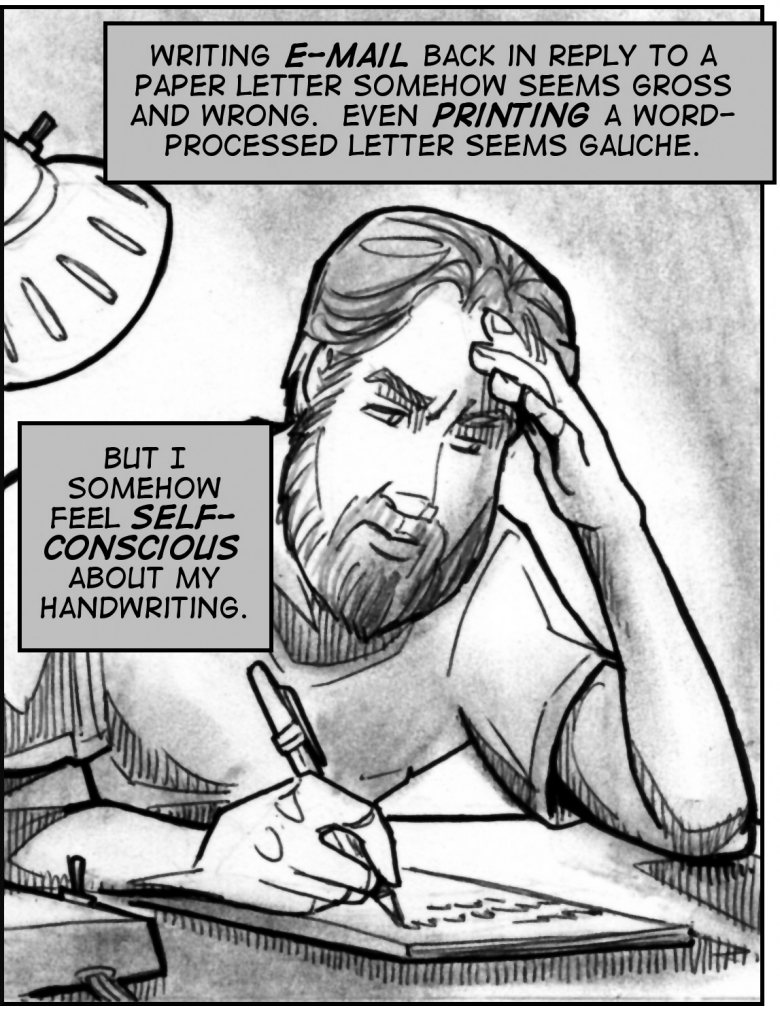

WHATCHA DOIN', BABY?
A HISTORICAL DECRYPTION. IT TURNS OUT TO BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING *NICER* FOR US TO DO...


THAT'S A PRETTY AMAZING STORY ABOUT THAT JANITOR. AND PROFESSOR WRIGHT BACKS THIS TAYLOR GUY UP ON IT?
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T BOTHER IF IT WERE JUST *HIM* ASKING.


MAYBE WE COULD USE SOME OF THAT AMAZING FATIMA FADIL CHEMICAL KNOWLEDGE OF YOURS TO HELP ME SHAKE LOOSE SOME CRYPTOGRAPHIC WEAKNESSES, HMM?
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU TALK DIRTY TO ME.

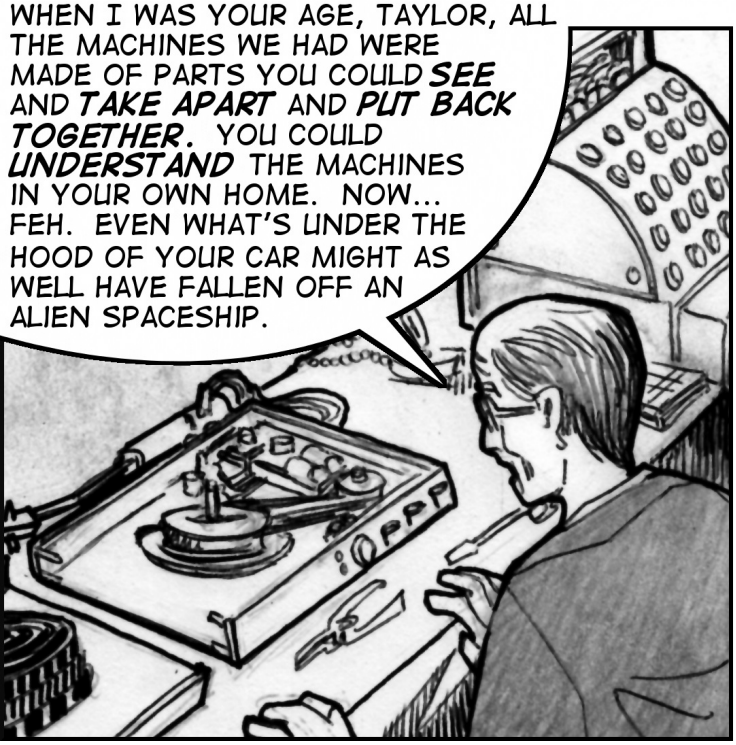

I KEEP RE-READING THIS LOVELY HAND-WRITTEN LETTER I GOT FROM THAT GERMAN ARCHIVIST WOMAN NAMED KARIN BAUER.
SHE TELLS ME HOW POIGNANT SHE FINDS THE VERNON JACKSON STORY.

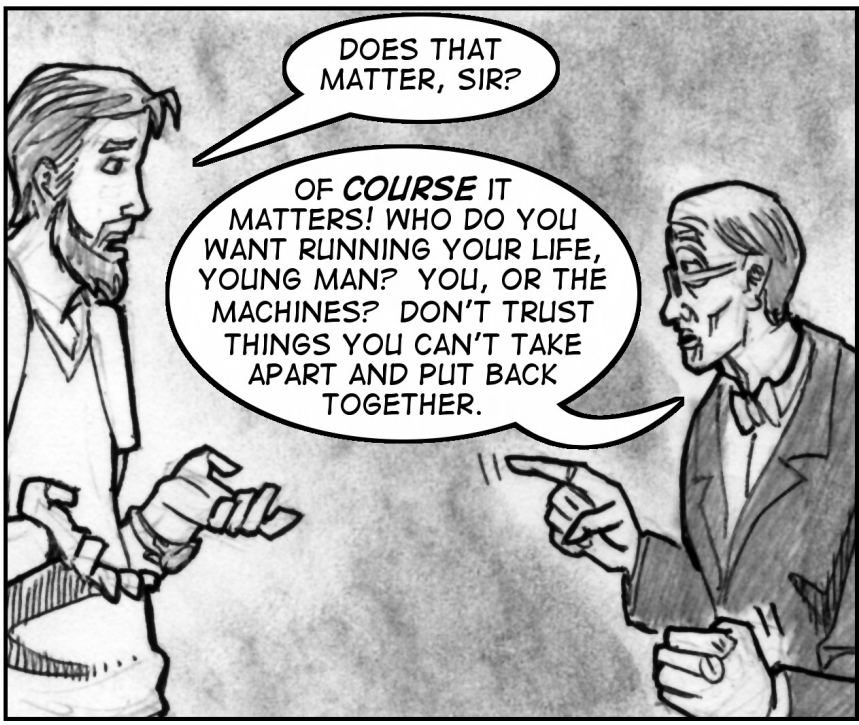

SHE TELLS ME A BIT ABOUT HER QUIET, SOLITARY LIFE AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT I MIGHT WRITE HER BACK.


WRITING *E-MAIL* BACK IN REPLY TO A PAPER LETTER SOMEHOW SEEMS GROSS AND WRONG. EVEN *PRINTING* A WORD-PROCESSED LETTER SEEMS GAUCHE.
BUT I SOMEHOW FEEL *SELF-CONSCIOUS* ABOUT MY HANDWRITING.


YESTERTECH
RADIOS
SHAVERS
TYPEWRITERS
WE CAN FIX IT!
BUSINESS HOURS
M - F
10 - 7 PM
SAT
10 - 6 PM
SUN
12 - 5 PM
COME IN
OPEN
BUT I THINK I CAN FIND A SOLUTION TO THAT.


HOW D'YA DO, YOUNG MAN. I'M JOE LARSON. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. LARSON. MY NAME IS TAYLOR CHASE. I WAS LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN... OLD TECHNOLOGY.
AH. GOOD!


WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, TAYLOR, ALL THE MACHINES WE HAD WERE MADE OF PARTS YOU COULD ***SEE*** AND ***TAKE APART*** AND ***PUT BACK TOGETHER.*** YOU COULD ***UNDERSTAND*** THE MACHINES IN YOUR OWN HOME. NOW... FEH. EVEN WHAT'S UNDER THE HOOD OF YOUR CAR MIGHT AS WELL HAVE FALLEN OFF AN ALIEN SPACESHIP.


DOES THAT MATTER, SIR?
OF ***COURSE*** IT MATTERS! WHO DO YOU WANT RUNNING YOUR LIFE, YOUNG MAN? YOU, OR THE MACHINES? DON'T TRUST THINGS YOU CAN'T TAKE APART AND PUT BACK TOGETHER.


BUT WE CAN LOVE OLD TECHNOLOGY NOT JUST BECAUSE WE CAN KNOW IT.
IT HAS BEAUTY AS WELL!
THOSE NEAT PACKAGES OF METAL AND GLASS BELOW DON'T JUST GIVE US SOUND. THEY GIVE US LIGHT AND WARMTH AND COMFORT, LIKE PRIMEVAL FIRES GAVE TO OUR ANCESTORS.
YOU WON'T GET THAT OUT OF YOUR FANCY I-DROIDS AND ME-PHONES AND BLUE BLINKING PSEUDO-TOOTHS AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR AGAIN?
UM. A... TYPEWRITER?
FLASH
PINBALL

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER EVEN ***TOUCHED*** ONE OF THESE BEFORE TODAY, MUCH LESS USED ONE.

tap tap tap

it was a dark and stormy nighr

CRAP. WHY CAN'T THERE BE A "DELETE" KEY?

BUT MANY HOURS OF SLOW TYPING LATER...

It's sort of strange, really. I didn't really have that much interest in comics before I came to Gnosis College. The inspiration to write only came after something really bad happened during my freshman year. I don't really like to write about it much but I fell in love with another student named Marie. After our freshman year she died - in a horrible way that I guess I'd prefer not to talk about. I felt really depressed and aimless at the start of my sophomore year (sorry, that might not mean anything to someone from Germany - in America "freshman" means a first-year college student and "sophomore" means a second-year student). I felt like I had to do something to get out of my rut, so I started writing and drawing. In time I came up with the story about an android named Xenobia. I showed it to the editors of the Gnosis Illuminator (that's our college newspaper) and they liked it enough to run in serial format. I'm enclosing some of them with this letter in case you might be interested.

The thing is, writing and drawing really seemed to help a lot. Even though the story wasn't about the experiences I went through about Marie they took my mind off my own problems and got me busy again. Strange to say, I don't think I would have had the energy to do all the work on the Professor Talmadge/Vernon Jackson papers if it hadn't been for making a comic book the year before.

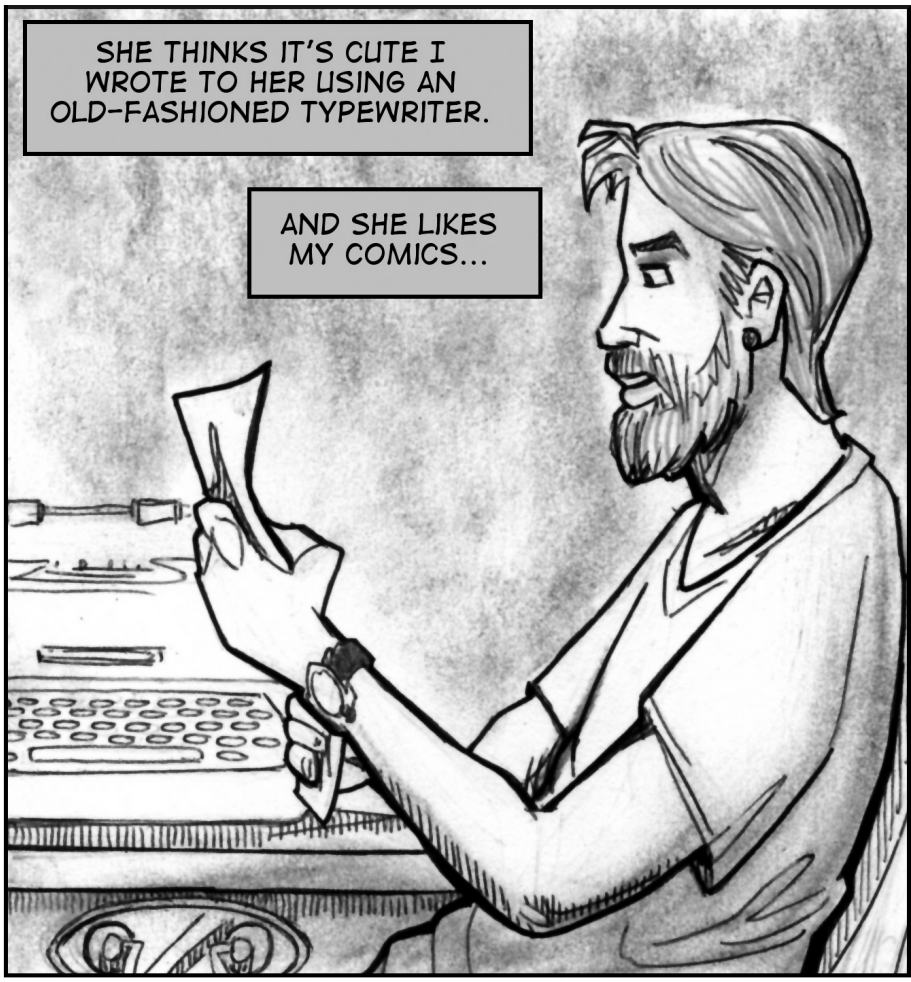
I probably wrap this up now. I really enjoyed hear from you again. I guess writing

I HAVE MADE SOMETHING THAT DOES FEEL FAR MORE SATISFYING THAN AN E-MAIL.

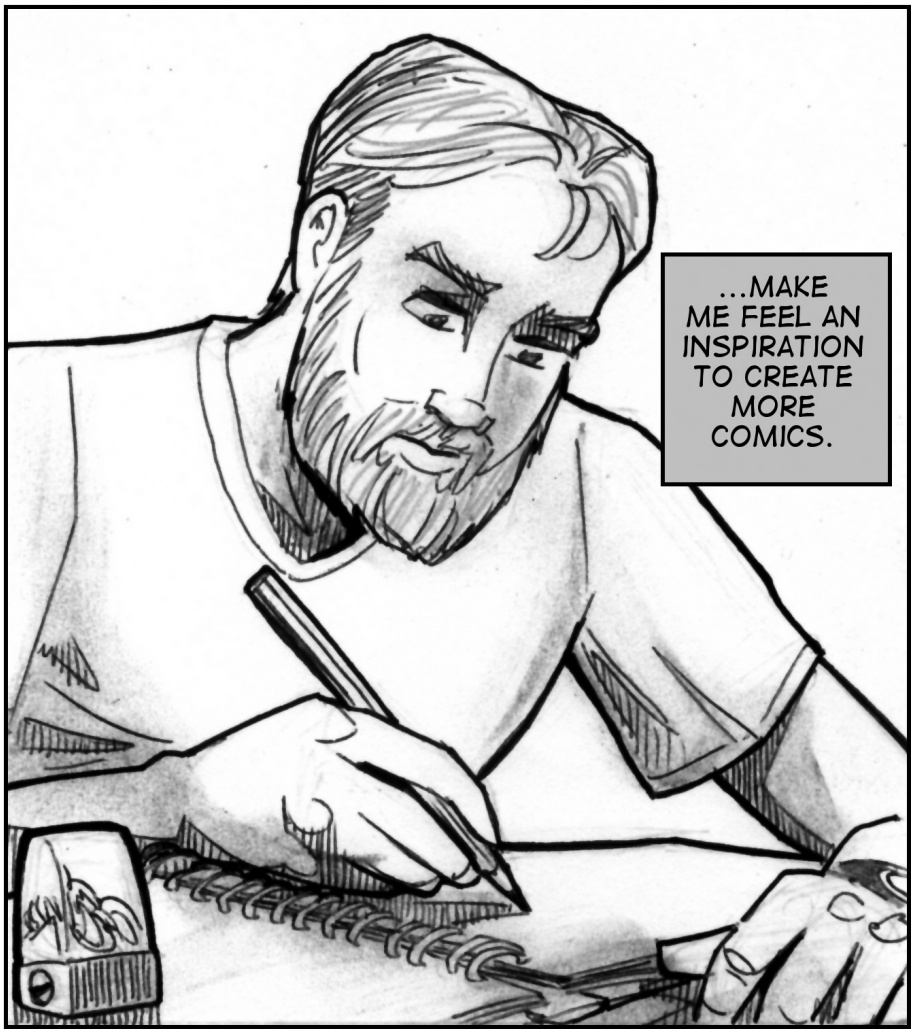

AMAZING...
WHAT'S AMAZING?
I'VE RUN A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. THIS THING THAT TAYLOR CHASE FOUND LOOKS LIKE IT REALLY IS A GENUINE POLYALPHABETIC SUBSTITUTION CIPHER...
"IT'S LIKE IT WAS PRODUCED ON AN ENIGMA MACHINE."
"I DON'T THINK A JANITOR WOULD HAVE HAD AN ENIGMA MACHINE..."
"PERHAPS HE COULD SIMULATE ONE IN HIS HEAD."
WHO *WAS* THIS GUY?
DON'T YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND OUT?


TWO WEEKS OF PROCESSING TIME LATER...
XY0NVPW
X68EGZUC
KD3P8FA666AUD3O6BSXZZW2C
2ZKTA9C720ZPTF3SF7LXIMQUL9
KXTR0DVR87T9XQ240NRXZZUA
A9Q6H1S1OPM
ACXUF29ZVOU
UJWG81VKNZJZ
4Z7SC69ZCYN
SHOULD REDUCE REFRACTORY PERIOD/SYNTHESIS 100G METALLIC SODIUM HEAT WITH 20G BARBITURIC ACID 10H
SO, CRANK OR GENIUS, CHEMIST?
LOOKS LIKE MIGHT BE GENIUS, BUT...
I HAD A CHEMIST FRIEND OF MINE LOOK AT THE DECRYPT. SHE THINKS YOUR MAN WAS A PHARMACOLOGIST FAR AHEAD OF HIS TIME, BUT HIS WORK IS UNFORTUNATELY INCOMPLETE...SURE, TAYLOR, I'LL SEND OVER MY DECRYPT.
NO, UNFORTUNATELY THE GNOSISIANA ARCHIVE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PAPERS OF PROFESSOR BUCHNER'S, BUT I CAN SEND OVER SCANS OF THE CORRESPONDENCE AND ASK MY FRIEND IN GERMANY IF SHE KNOWS OF ANYTHING. SURE. THANKS, MEDEA.


CLICK!
LUFTPOST
MR TAYLOR CHASE
GNOSIS COLLEGE
S.U. 2624
PLEASANT PRAIRIE, U.S.A.

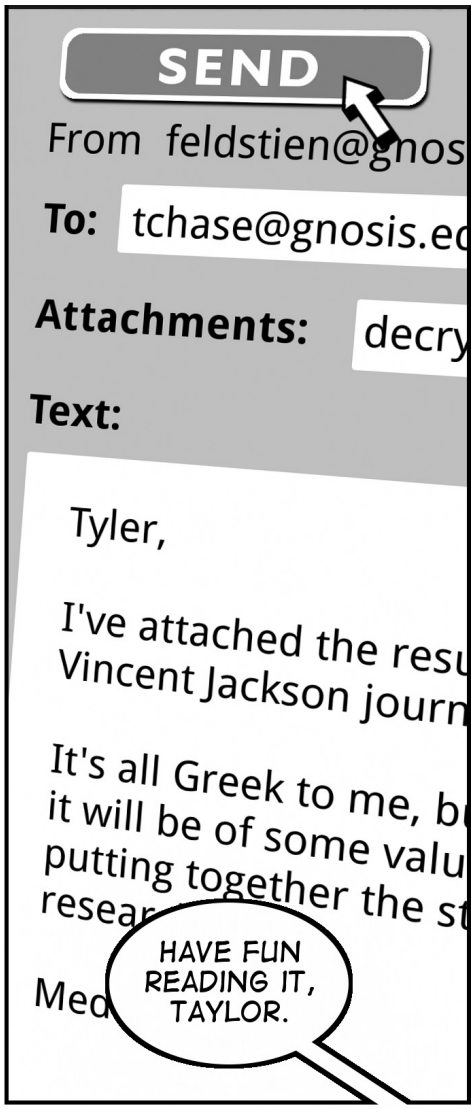

SHE THINKS IT'S CUTE I WROTE TO HER USING AN OLD-FASHIONED TYPEWRITER.
AND SHE LIKES MY COMICS...


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KARIN BAUER EVEN *LOOKS* LIKE, AND YET HER LETTERS...
?


...MAKE ME FEEL AN INSPIRATION TO CREATE MORE COMICS.


I FEEL ANOTHER STORY COMING ON...
MY GOD! HE'S MORE MACHINE THAN MAN!


PLAINTEXT SUFFICIENTLY BOWDLERIZED?
TO A HUMANITIES PERSON IT'S NOW IMPENETRABLE TECHNOBABBLE, BUT A REAL CHEMIST WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT TO MAKE TABLE SALT.

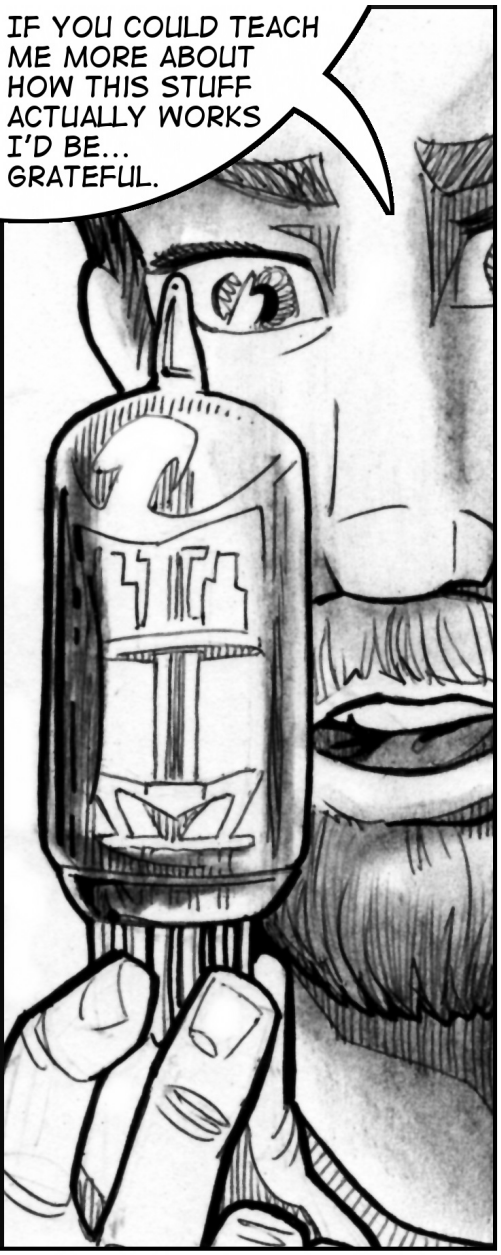

SEND
From feldstien@gnos
To: tchase@gnosis.ec
Attachments: decry
Text:
Tyler,
I've attached the resu
Vincent Jackson journ
It's all Greek to me, b
it will be of some valu
putting together the st
resear
Med
HAVE FUN READING IT, TAYLOR.


AND NOW WE SEE IF WE CAN GET INSIDE VERNON JACKSON'S SECRETS FOR REAL.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET OVER THE GAPS?


I ASKED IGOR FOR HELP. HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT BRAIN CHEMISTRY THAT VERNON JACKSON DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO.




MR. LARSON?
AH, YOU AGAIN, YOUNG MAN. TYPEWRITER WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
I WAS WONDERING IF I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SKETCH SOME OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY... MAYBE LEARN A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT HOW IT WORKS.
OFFICE
WELL, YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THAT. HERE, START WITH THIS.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS EXAMPLE OF ART DECO DESIGN.
JUST A HUMBLE FOUR-VALVE RADIO, AND YET IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MOVING AT HIGH SPEED EVEN WHEN SITTING STILL.
IT *IS* BEAUTIFUL.


IF YOU COULD TEACH ME MORE ABOUT HOW THIS STUFF ACTUALLY WORKS I'D BE... GRATEFUL.


SELF-SERVICE
BE TESTER
WELL, I SURE CAN, TAYLOR. BUT I HAVE TO ASK, WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN ALL THIS OLD STUFF?

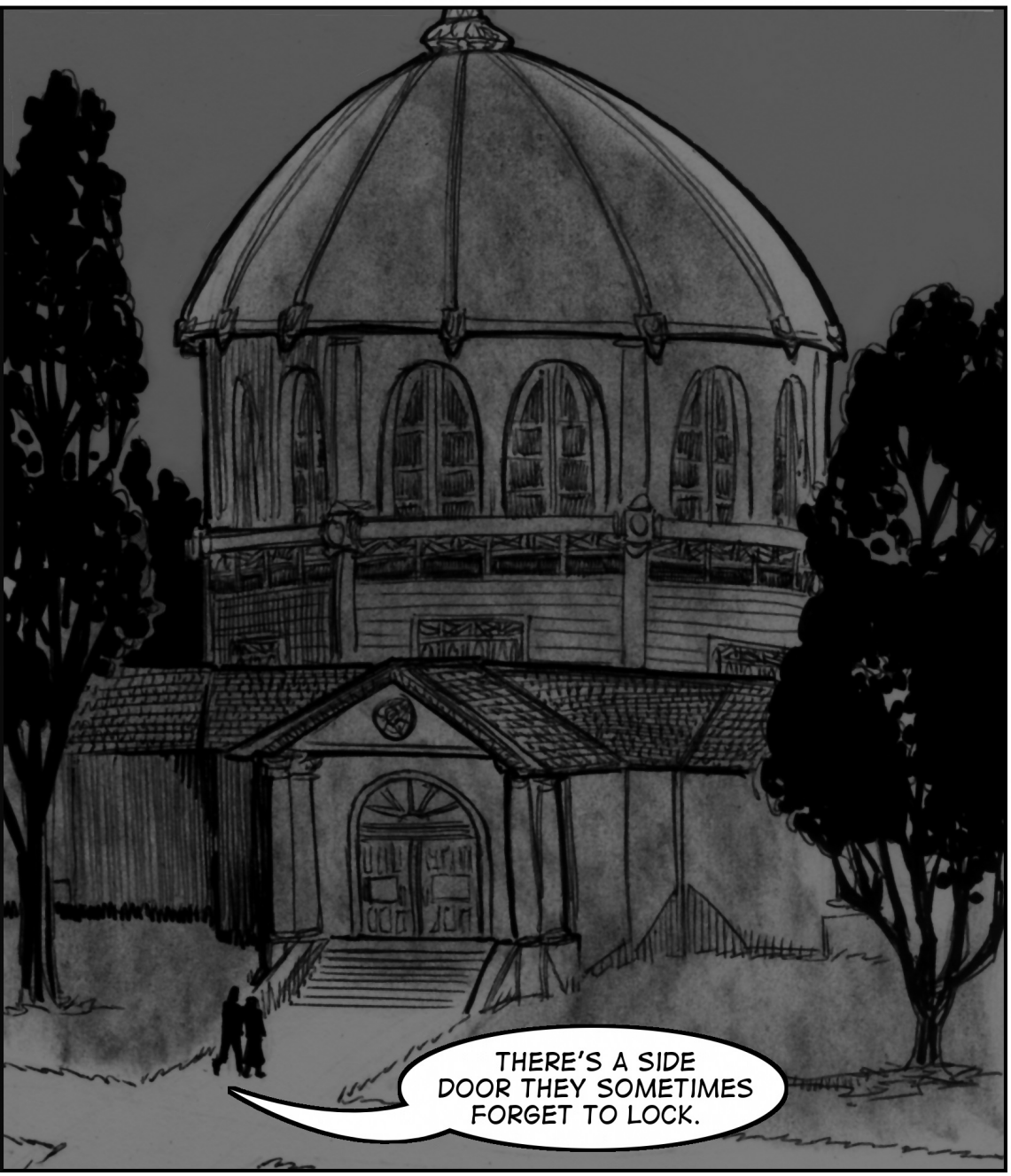

I'M UH... THINKING OF MAKING A COMIC BOOK SET IN AN IMAGINED MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY?


BEFORE I COULD STOP HER, SALLY TURNED ON THE 'PHYSIO-CHEMICAL DECOMPOSER AND RE-ALIGNER' AND STEPPED INTO ITS FORCE-FIELD! I WATCHED, HORRIFIED, AS SHE DISSOLVED INTO A POOL OF LIQUID...
SALLY! SALLY!
ROGER! OPEN THIS DOOR... IMMEDIATELY!
"REALLY? I WAS A BIG E.C. FAN WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, BACK BEFORE FREDRIC WERTHAM RUINED EVERYTHING."
"YOU FEEL FREE TO COME BY ANYTIME."


εὕρηκα!
Of course, now we'll need a test subject.
Aren't there ethic rules about that s of thing?
Do you care that much about the breeders?
No.
Me neither.


I MEAN, MIKE'S GREAT AND ADVENTUROUS AND ALL, BUT HE JUST FIRES ONCE AND THEN IT'S LIKE HE'S DONE FOR THE WEEK.
HMM. YOU KNOW, MY GRANDMOTHER HAD SOMETHING FOR THIS. SHE CALLED IT *HRAHA*.
IT'S... HERBAL. SHE SAYS YOU CAN PUT IT IN A MAN'S TEA AND IT WILL HAVE THE MOST REMARKABLE EFFECTS.
IF YOU TRY IT, I WANT A ***COMPLETE*** REPORT, YOU KNOW.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW. BUT IF IT'S ***HERBAL*** IT MUST BE OKAY.
BUT AREN'T YOU, LIKE...
YES. YES I AM. BUT YOU TRY EXPLAINING THAT TO MY GRAND-MOTHER.


I'M NOT SURE WHY I HAD TO HAVE A CUP OF TEA FIRST.
TEA IS GOOD FOR YOU.


THERE'S A SIDE DOOR THEY SOMETIMES FORGET TO LOCK.


WILD.

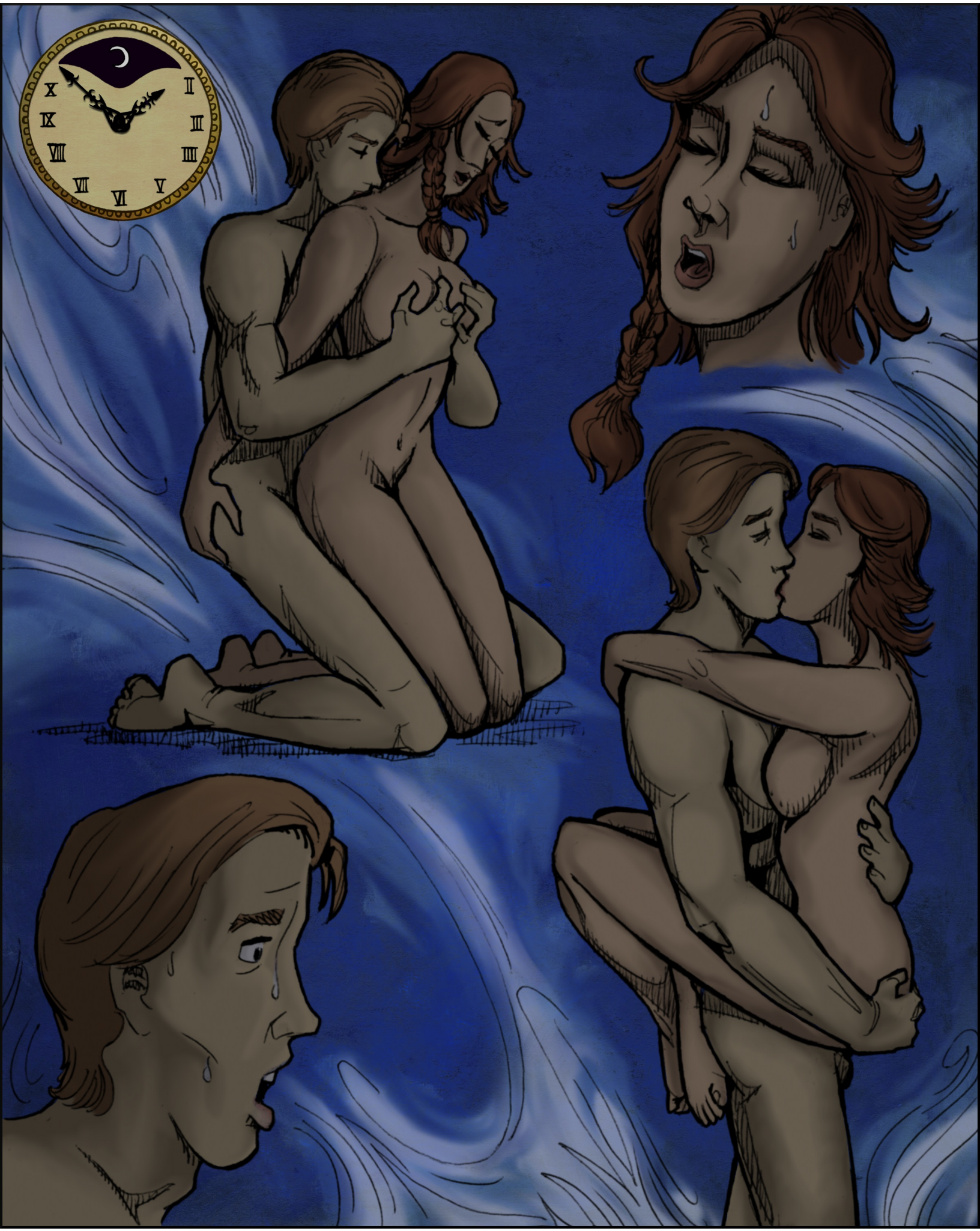

HOW ROMANTIC!








SWELL!
STIFFEN
WHOA!
WE JUST FINISHED HAVING SEX SOMETHING LIKE TWO MINUTES AGO!
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I JUST FINISHED HAVING SEX TWO MINUTES AGO.
I NORMALLY FEEL LIKE THIS WHEN I HAVEN'T HAD SEX IN A WEEK!
OH... REALLY?








HMMM.
ALL RIGHT! ANYONE UP THERE?
OH SHIT, OH SHIT!
QUICK... I THINK THERE'S A BACK STAIR...


WHOA, DUDE, ARE YOU GETTING THIS?
OH, YEAH.


BlueTube

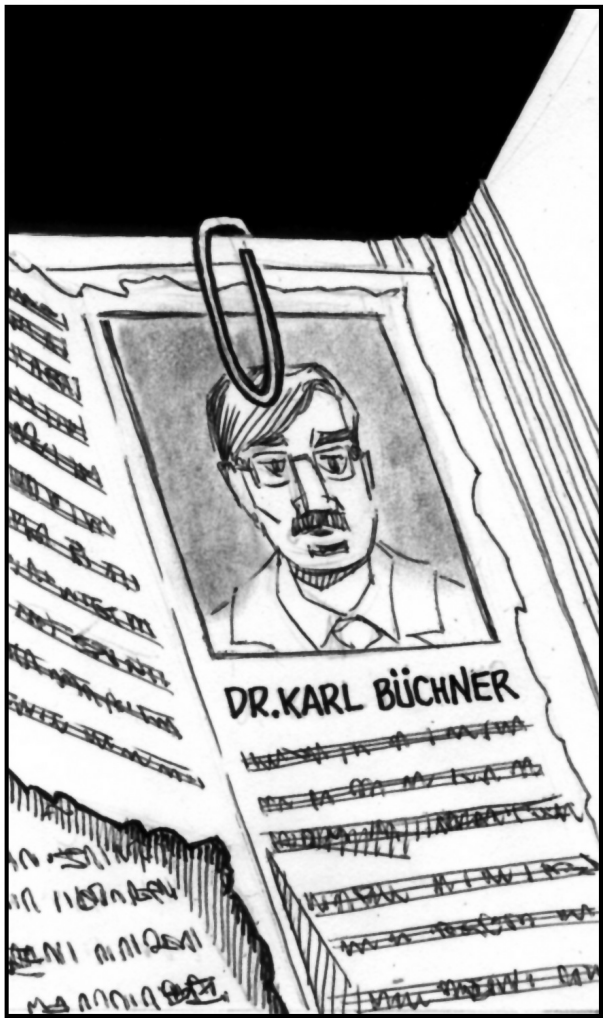

ISN'T YOUNG LOVE JUST THE SWEETEST THING?
I WONDER WHAT THEY DID WHEN THEY GOT BACK HOME.


I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
VERNON JACKSON REALLY WAS THE GENIUS TAYLOR CHASE THINKS HE WAS. AND WE HAVE HIS MAGIC RECIPE BOOK.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN, BABY?
WORST CASE, WE GET OBSCENELY RICH AND GET TO GO LIVE ON OUR OWN TROPICAL ISLAND.
BEST CASE, WE GET TO RULE THE WORLD TOGETHER.
PEOPLE SAID IT WAS A MISTAKE, MY FOLLOWING YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
BUT BELIEVE ME, I NEVER REGRETTED THE DECISION FOR ONE SECOND.




GOD! HE'S MORE MACHINE THAN MAN!




DR. KARL BÜCHNER

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE



FATIMA FADIL


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER III
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
ACHTUNG! KAMPFGAS!
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


WHAT'S THIS THING, MR. LARSON?
AIRSHIP COMPASS. FROM THE 1920S.
HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT AIRSHIPS DID HAVE ADVANTAGES OVER AIRPLANES.
HAD HISTORY GONE A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY, WE MIGHT SEE THE SKIES FILLED WITH THEM TODAY.
PROFESSOR.
A HISTORY IN WHICH, PERHAPS, EUROPE DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE?
YOU YOUNG PEOPLE GET HARDER TO UNDERSTAND WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR.

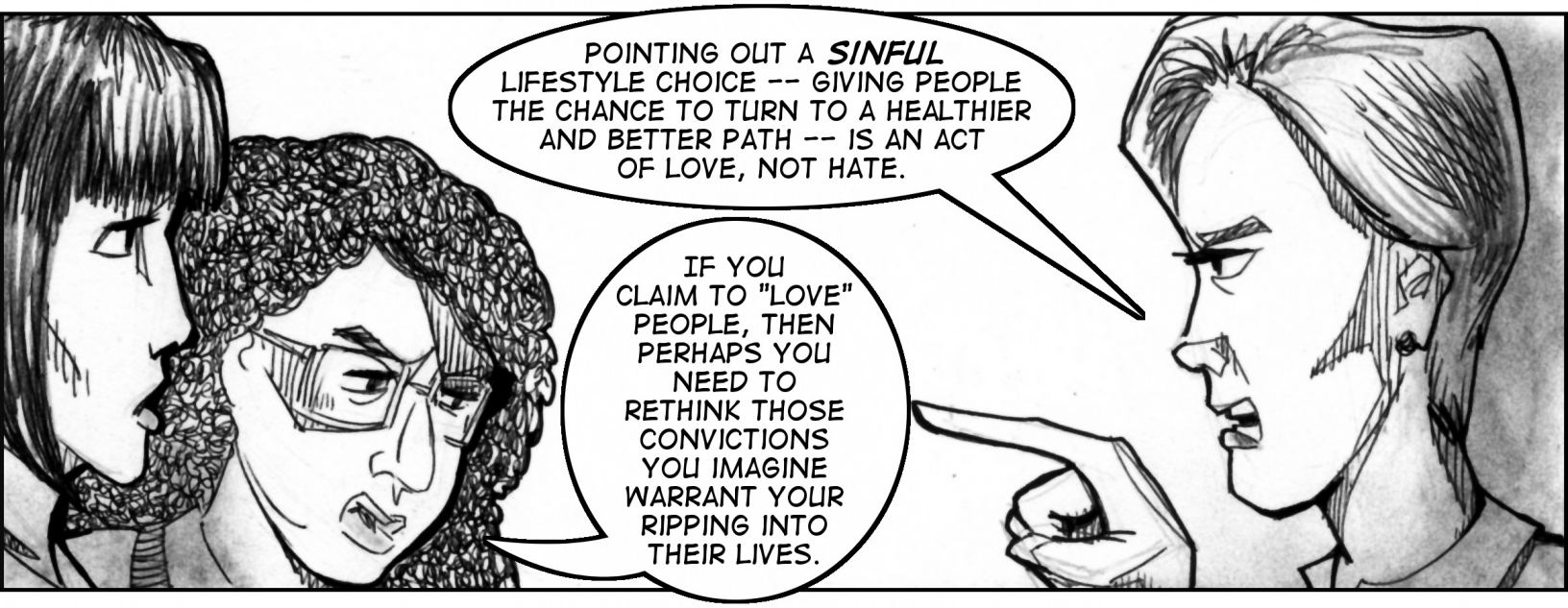
"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 3

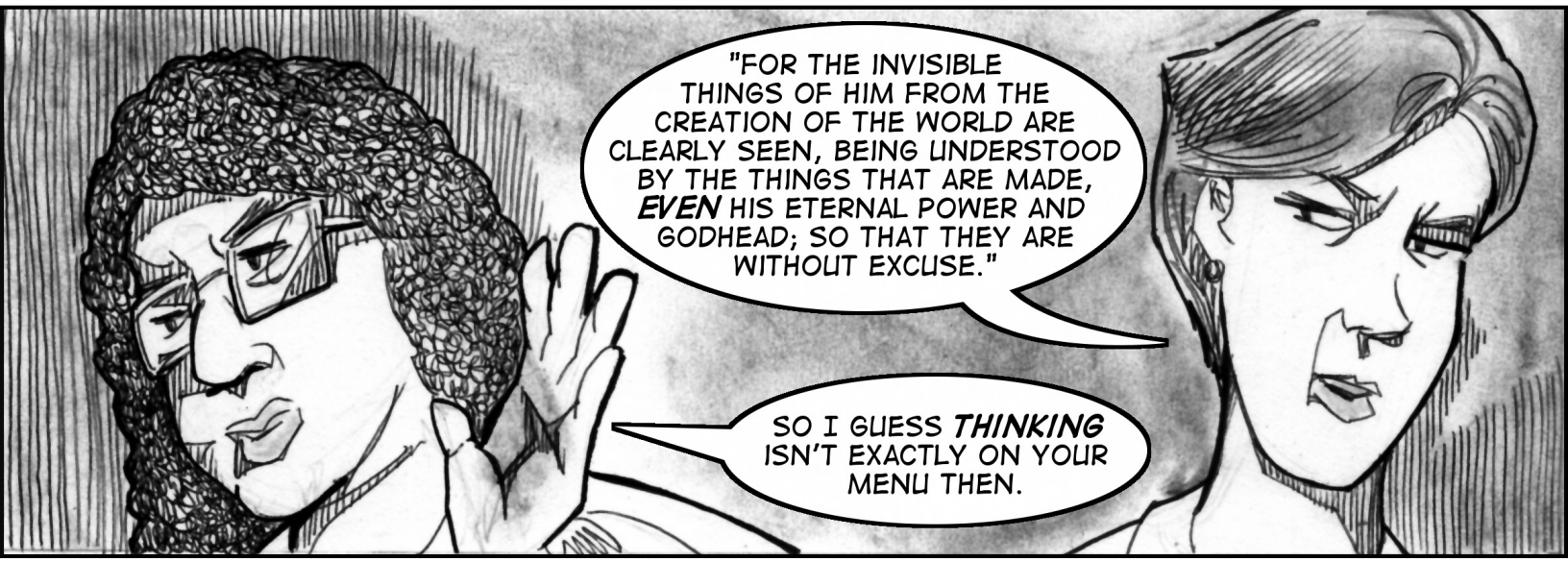
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
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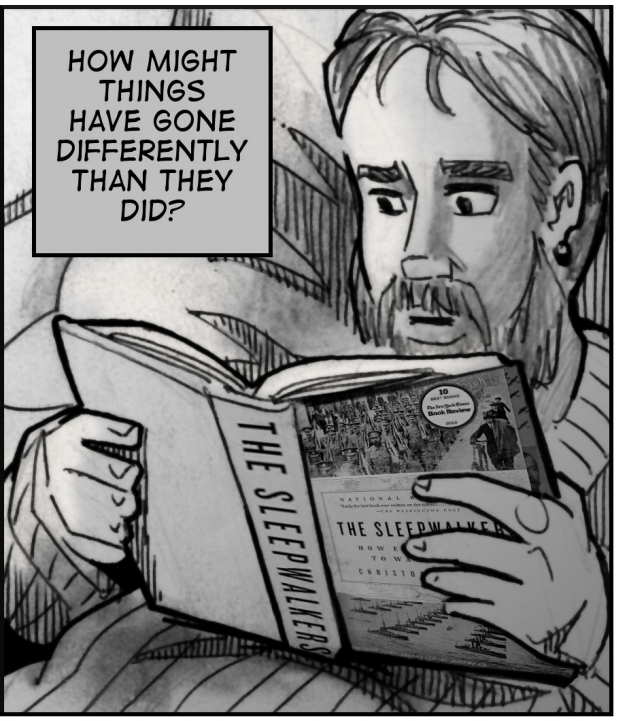



HATERS GONNA HATE.
WRONG!

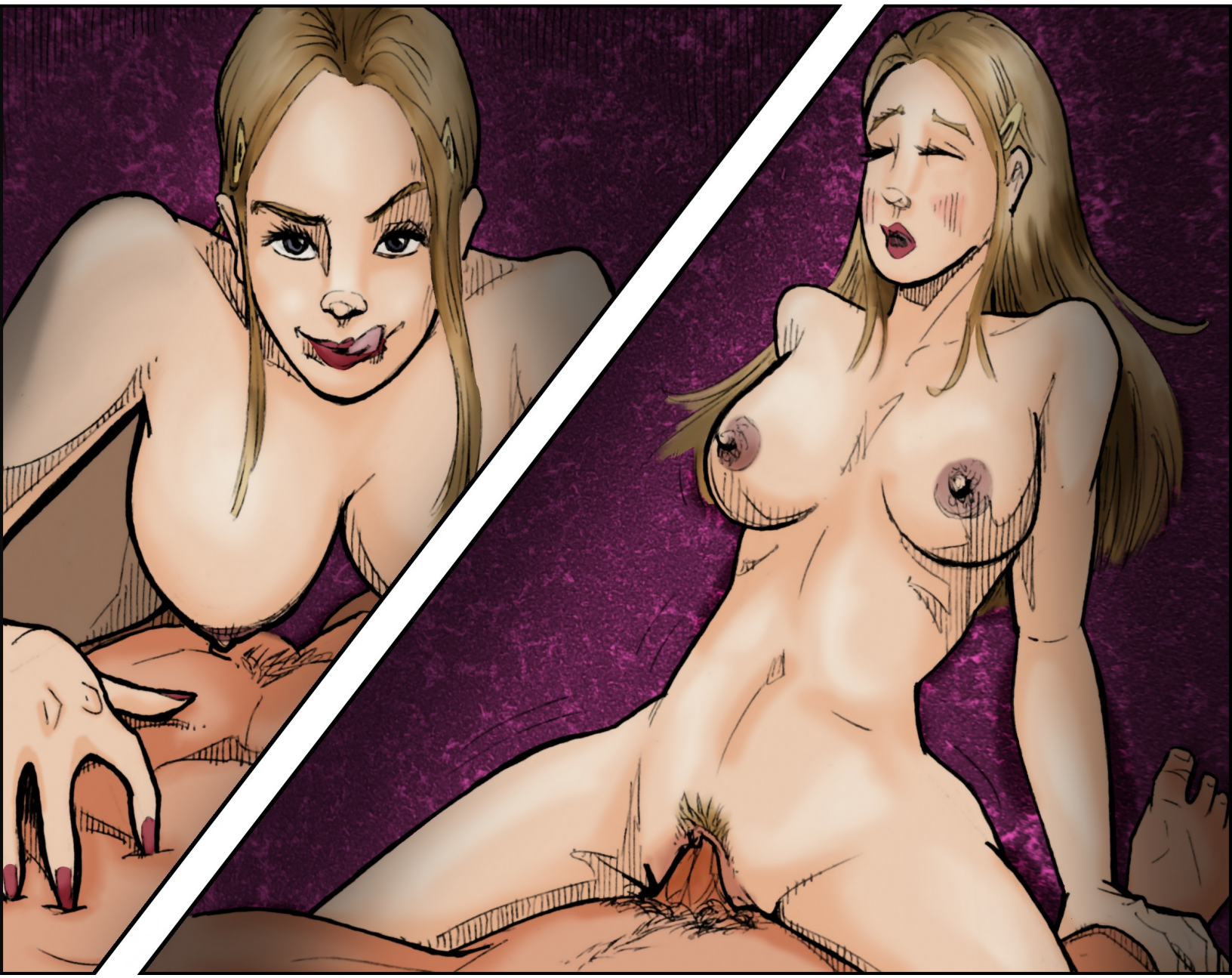

POINTING OUT A ***SINFUL*** LIFESTYLE CHOICE -- GIVING PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO TURN TO A HEALTHIER AND BETTER PATH -- IS AN ACT OF LOVE, NOT HATE.
IF YOU CLAIM TO "LOVE" PEOPLE, THEN PERHAPS YOU NEED TO RETHINK THOSE CONVICTIONS YOU IMAGINE WARRANT YOUR RIPPING INTO THEIR LIVES.

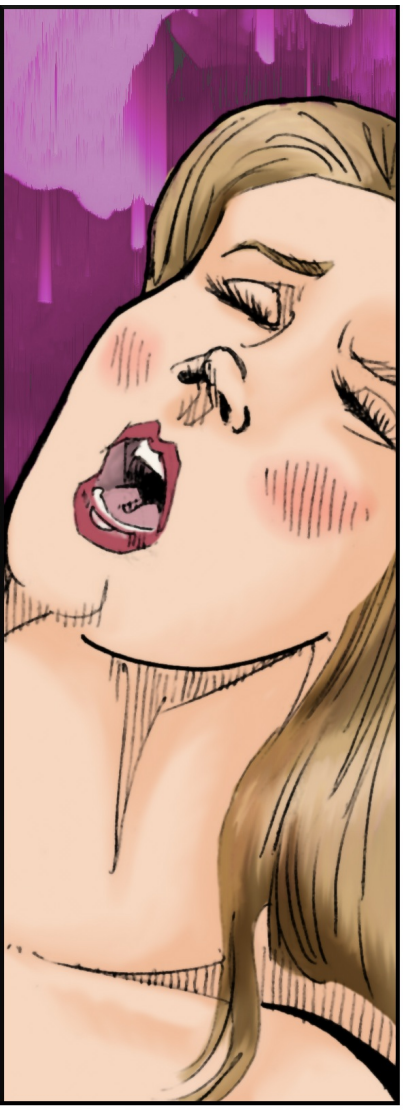

"FOR THE INVISIBLE THINGS OF HIM FROM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD ARE CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE, ***EVEN*** HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE."
SO I GUESS ***THINKING*** ISN'T EXACTLY ON YOUR MENU THEN.

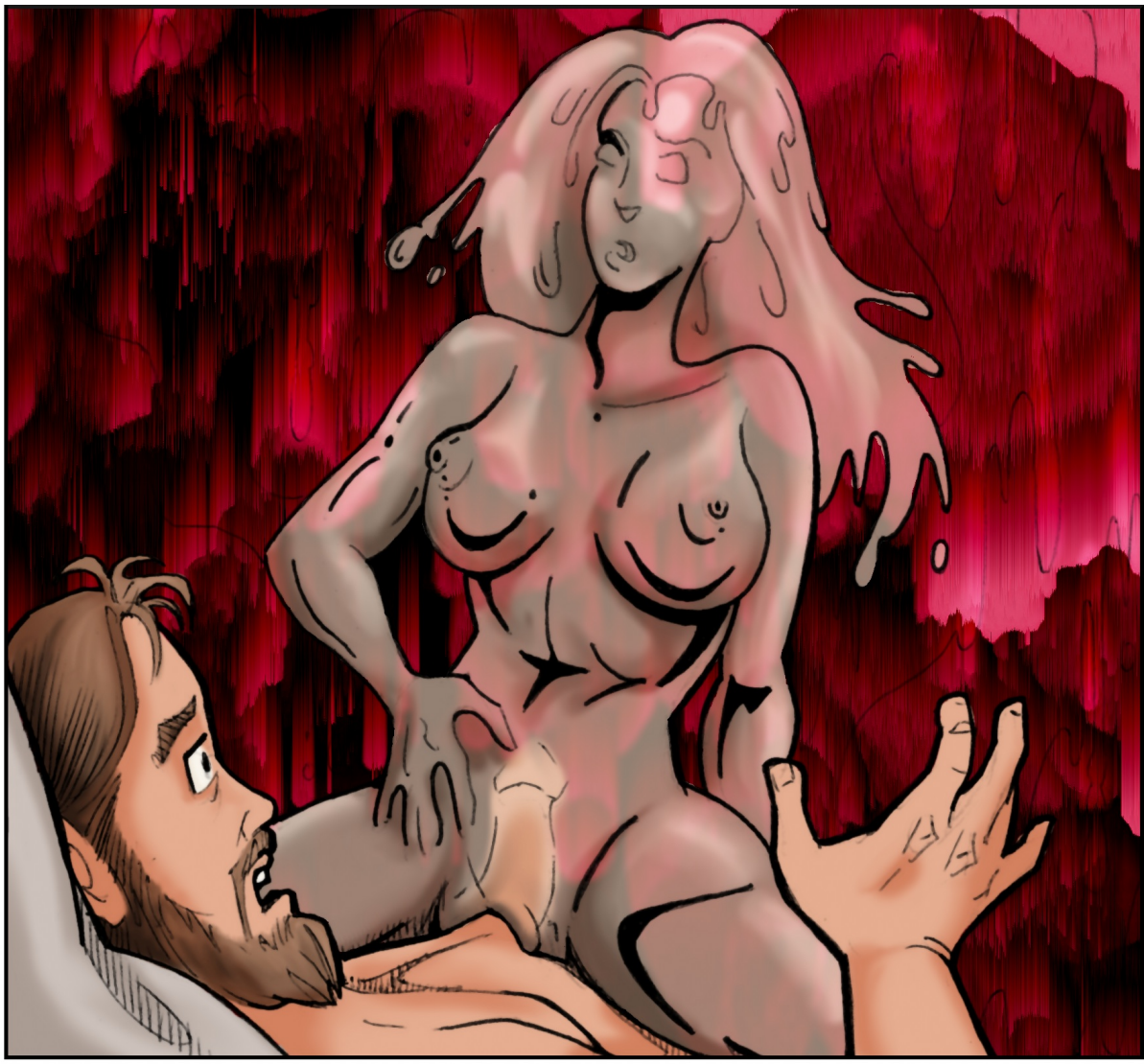

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT, BABY.
THAT GIRL PHYLLIS HAS BEEN A BITCH SINCE FRESHMAN YEAR.
YOU KNOW, THERE *ARE* PATHS TO ENLIGHTENMENT OTHER THAN *THINKING*.
THERE IS ALWAYS BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY!
WE'VE BEEN HAVING A PROBLEM WITH PESTS.
FLEXIBLE TUBING
PLUMBING


HOW MIGHT THINGS HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY DID?
THE SLEEPWALKERS



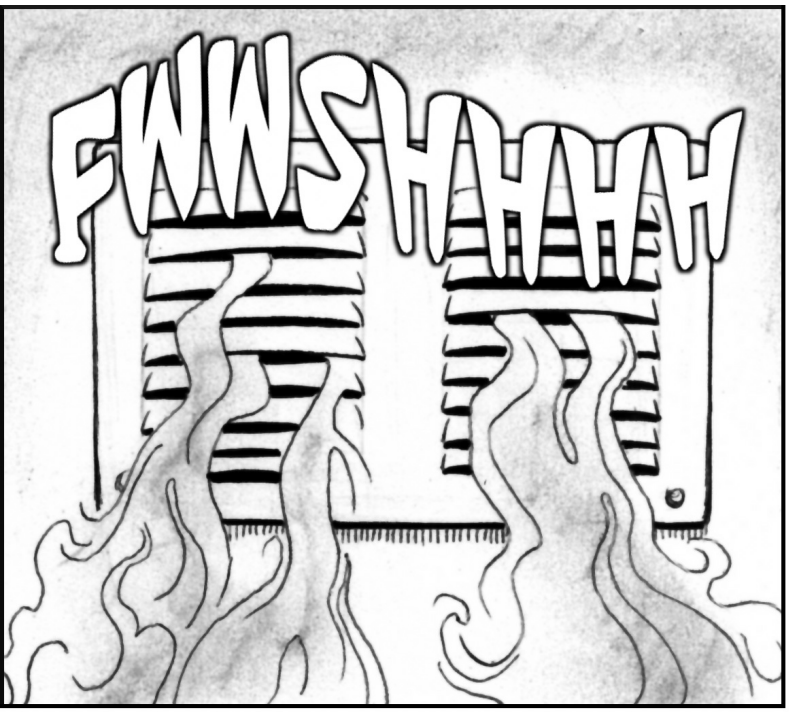


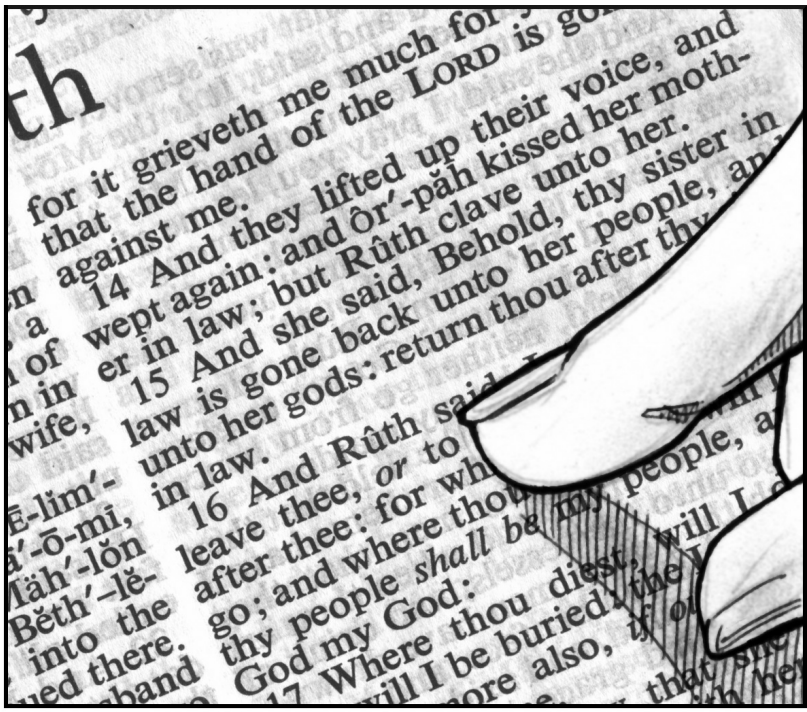






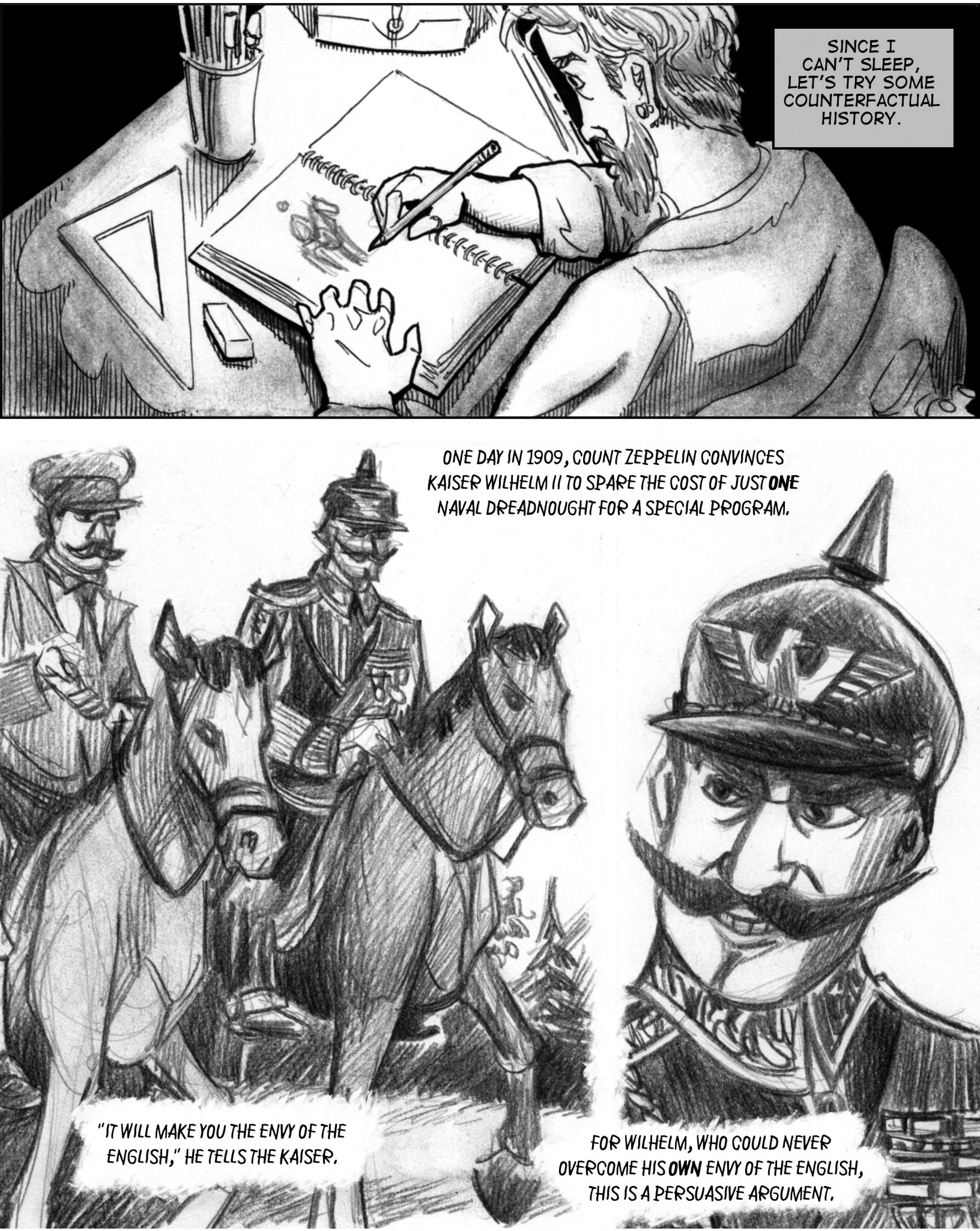


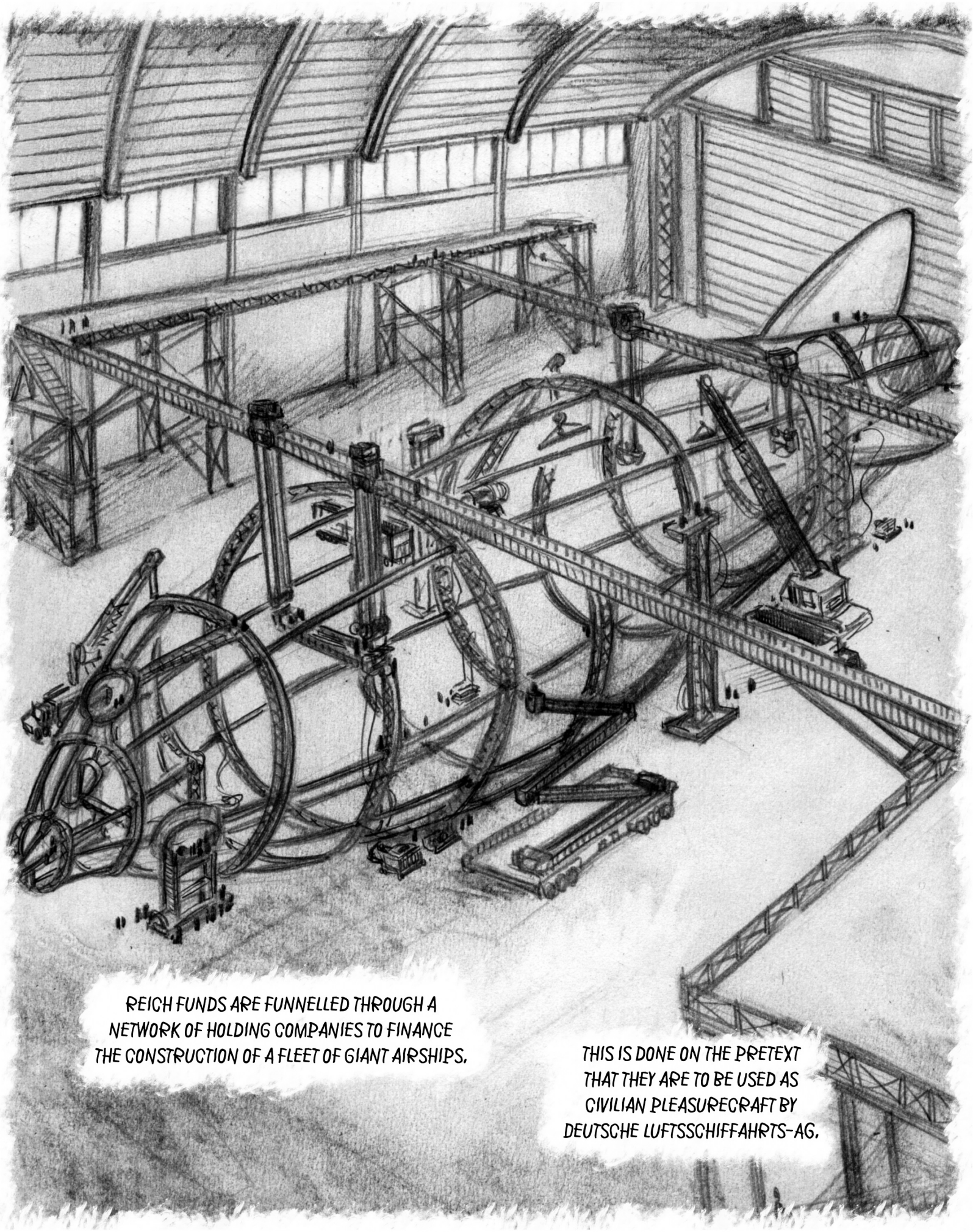

FWWSHAHHH


for it grieveth me much for
that the hand of the LORD is go
against me.
14 And they lifted up their voice, and
wept again: and Or'-pah kissed her moth-
er in law; but Rûth clave unto her.
15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in
law is gone back unto her people, a
unto her gods: return thou after thy
16 And Rûth said
in law.
leave thee, or to
after thee: for wh
go; and where tho
thy people shall be my people, a
God my God:
Where thou dies
will I be buried
more also,

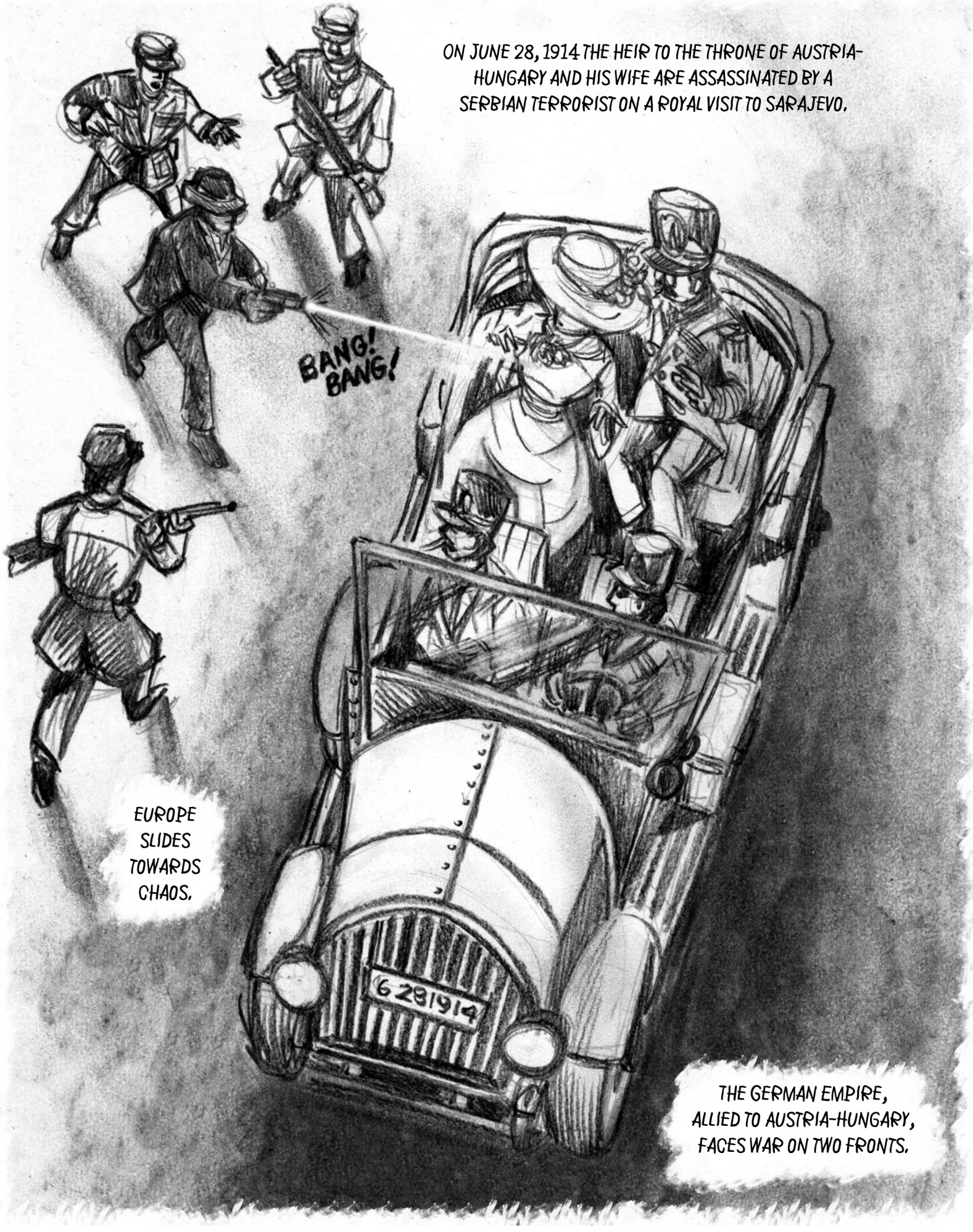





SINCE I CAN'T SLEEP, LET'S TRY SOME COUNTERFACTUAL HISTORY.
ONE DAY IN 1909, COUNT ZEPPELIN CONVINCES KAISER WILHELM II TO SPARE THE COST OF JUST ONE NAVAL DREADNOUGHT FOR A SPECIAL PROGRAM.
"IT WILL MAKE YOU THE ENVY OF THE ENGLISH," HE TELLS THE KAISER.
FOR WILHELM, WHO COULD NEVER OVERCOME HIS OWN ENVY OF THE ENGLISH, THIS IS A PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT.


REICH FUNDS ARE FUNNELLED THROUGH A NETWORK OF HOLDING COMPANIES TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLEET OF GIANT AIRSHIPS.
THIS IS DONE ON THE PRETEXT THAT THEY ARE TO BE USED AS CIVILIAN PLEASURECRAFT BY DEUTSCHE LUFTSSCHIFFAHRTS-AG.


WHILE SOME POLITICIANS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSE OF ALL THESE AIRSHIPS, FEW TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY.
TAKE IT FROM ME, WINSTON, NO WEAPON WILL EVER SURPASS THE FIGHTING SHIP.
MEANWHILE, IN REMOTE FORESTS OF EAST PRUSSIA, SOME VERY SPECIAL TROOPS ARE BEING TRAINED.


ON JUNE 28, 1914 THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND HIS WIFE ARE ASSASSINATED BY A SERBIAN TERRORIST ON A ROYAL VISIT TO SARAJEVO.
BANG! BANG!
6 28 1914
EUROPE SLIDES TOWARDS CHAOS.
THE GERMAN EMPIRE, ALLIED TO AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, FACES WAR ON TWO FRONTS.

BY AUGUST THE ARMIES WERE MARCHING.



WE SHALL MARCH THROUGH HERE, AND TAKE THE FRENCH IN THE REAR, THUS CRUSHING THEM.

ARE YOU **MAD,** GENERALOBERST? TO CROSS BELGIUM IN THAT MANNER WILL SURELY BRING THE ENGLISH INTO THE WAR. IT WILL BE A **CATASTROPHE** FOR GERMANY!

THE MOBILIZATION **CANNOT** BE STOPPED! TO DO SO WOULD THROW THE ARMY INTO CHAOS!



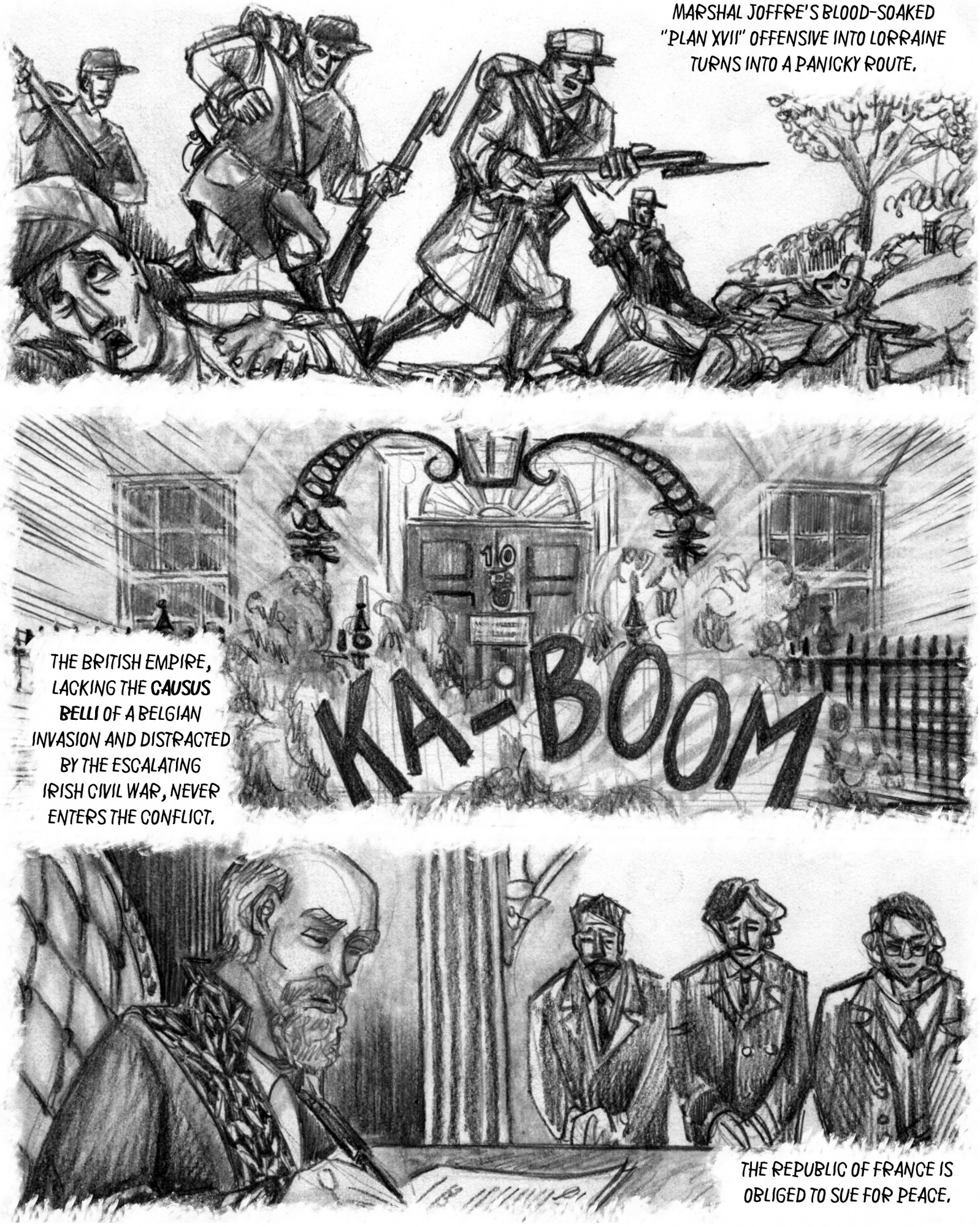
YOUR **UNCLE** WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH A BAD ANSWER, VON MOLTKE.

YOUR MAJESTY, IF I MAY...



MY SERVICE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE.


FROM THEIR BASE NEAR HEILSBERG A MIGHTY FLEET OF AIRSHIPS TAKES TO THE SKIES!
THE ACTUAL GERMAN ARMY CALLS A HALT AT THE BELGIAN FRONTIER...
...A FORCE OF LUFTSTOßTRUPPEN DESCEND FROM THEIR AIRSHIPS BEHIND THE LINES IN FRANCE.
THE SOLDIERS FROM THE AIR WREAK HAVOC AND SPREAD PANIC IN THE REAR AREAS OF FRANCE.
BOOM!

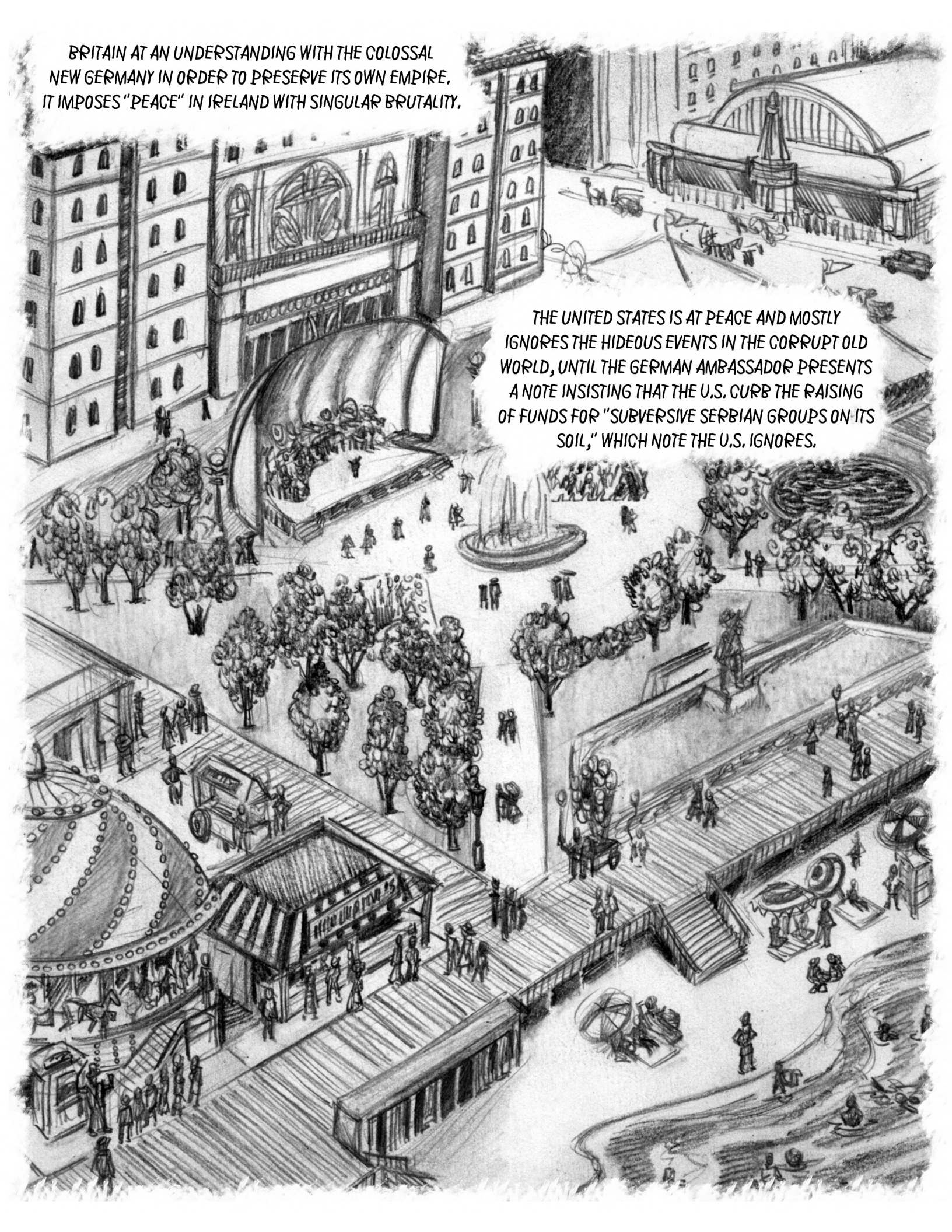

MARSHAL JOFFRE'S BLOOD-SOAKED "PLAN XVII" OFFENSIVE INTO LORRAINE TURNS INTO A PANICKY ROUTE.
10
KA-BOOM
THE BRITISH EMPIRE, LACKING THE CAUSUS BELLI OF A BELGIAN INVASION AND DISTRACTED BY THE ESCALATING IRISH CIVIL WAR, NEVER ENTERS THE CONFLICT.
THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE IS OBLIGED TO SUE FOR PEACE.

THE KAISER SHIFTS HIS ARMIES EAST TO MEET THE "RUSSIAN STEAMROLLER" A HORRIFIC STRUGGLE ENSUES.

WITHIN A YEAR, THOUGH, THE TSAR IS FORCED INTO A HUMILIATING CAPITULATION.

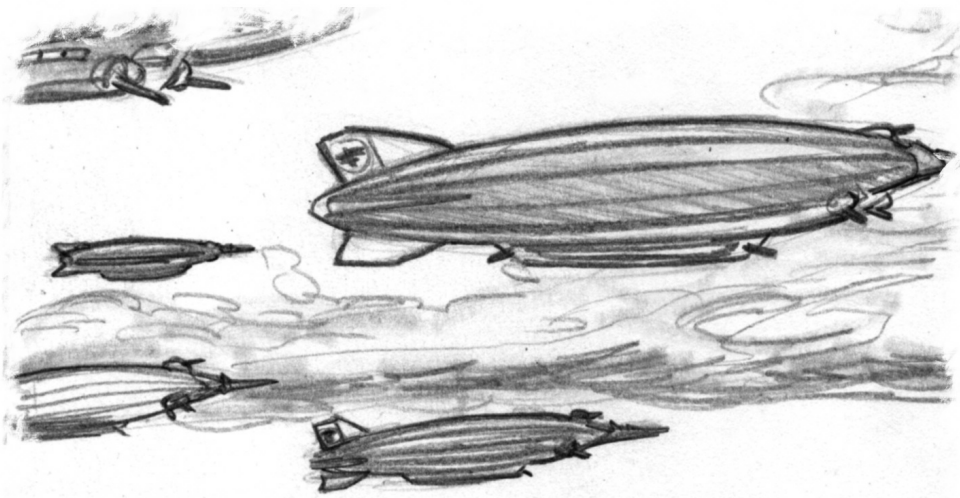
GERMANY COMES TO CONTROL A VAST EMPIRE IN THE EAST IN THE FORM OF CLIENT AND PUPPET STATES


St. Petersburg
Moscow
Berlin
Warsaw
Poland
Paris
Vienna
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
SERVIA
BULGARIA
Constantinople
TURKEY
Kharkov
Kiev
Riga
Stockholm
Copenhagen
Christiania
Lisbon
Madrid
Barcelona
Marseilles
Toulon
Nice
Venice
Rome
Naples
Sardinia
Corsica
Budapest
Bucharest
Sofia
Odessa
Sevastopol
Astrakhan
Samara
Saratov
Tsaritsyn
Kazan
Orenburg
Perm
Yekaterinburg
Tyumen
Omsk
Tomsk
Irkutsk
Yakutsk
Vladivostok
Khabarovsk
Blagoveshchensk
Harbin
Port Arthur
Mukden
Peking
Tientsin
Nanking
Hankow
Shanghai
Canton
Hong Kong
Amoy
Foochow
Swatow
Tsingtao
Chefoo
Weihaiwei
Kiaochow
Nagasaki
Kobe
Osaka
Yokohama
Tokyo
Hakodate
Sapporo
Karafuto
Saghalien
Kamchatka
Petropavlovsk
Okhotsk
Yakutsk
Verkhoyansk
Novosibirsk
Semipalatinsk
Tashkent
Samarkand
Bokhara
Khiva
Merv
Kushk
Herat
Kandahar
Quetta
Peshawar
Kabul
Afghanistan
Persia
Tehran
Tabriz
Mesopotamia
Baghdad
Basra
Mosul
Aleppo
Damascus
Jerusalem
Cairo
Alexandria
Suez
Port Said
Arabia
Mecca
Medina
Aden
Muscat
Persian Gulf
Red Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Lake Baikal
Lake Balkash
Lake Issyk-Kul
Lake Urmia
Lake Van
Lake Victoria
Lake Tanganyika
Lake Nyasa
Lake Rudolf
Lake Albert
Lake Chad
Lake Tchad
Lake Ngami
Lake Bangweolo
Lake Mweru
Lake Kivu
Lake Tana
Lake Naivasha
Lake Rukwa
Lake Kyoga
Lake Kioga
Lake Edward
Lake Mobutu Sese Seko
Lake Kariba
Lake Nyasa
Lake Chilwa


BRITAIN AT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COLOSSAL NEW GERMANY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS OWN EMPIRE. IT IMPOSES "PEACE" IN IRELAND WITH SINGULAR BRUTALITY.
THE UNITED STATES IS AT PEACE AND MOSTLY IGNORES THE HIDEOUS EVENTS IN THE CORRUPT OLD WORLD, UNTIL THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS A NOTE INSISTING THAT THE U.S. CURB THE RAISING OF FUNDS FOR "SUBVERSIVE SERBIAN GROUPS ON ITS SOIL," WHICH NOTE THE U.S. IGNORES.

THE RESPONSE OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE IS ONE OF INTIMIDATION.



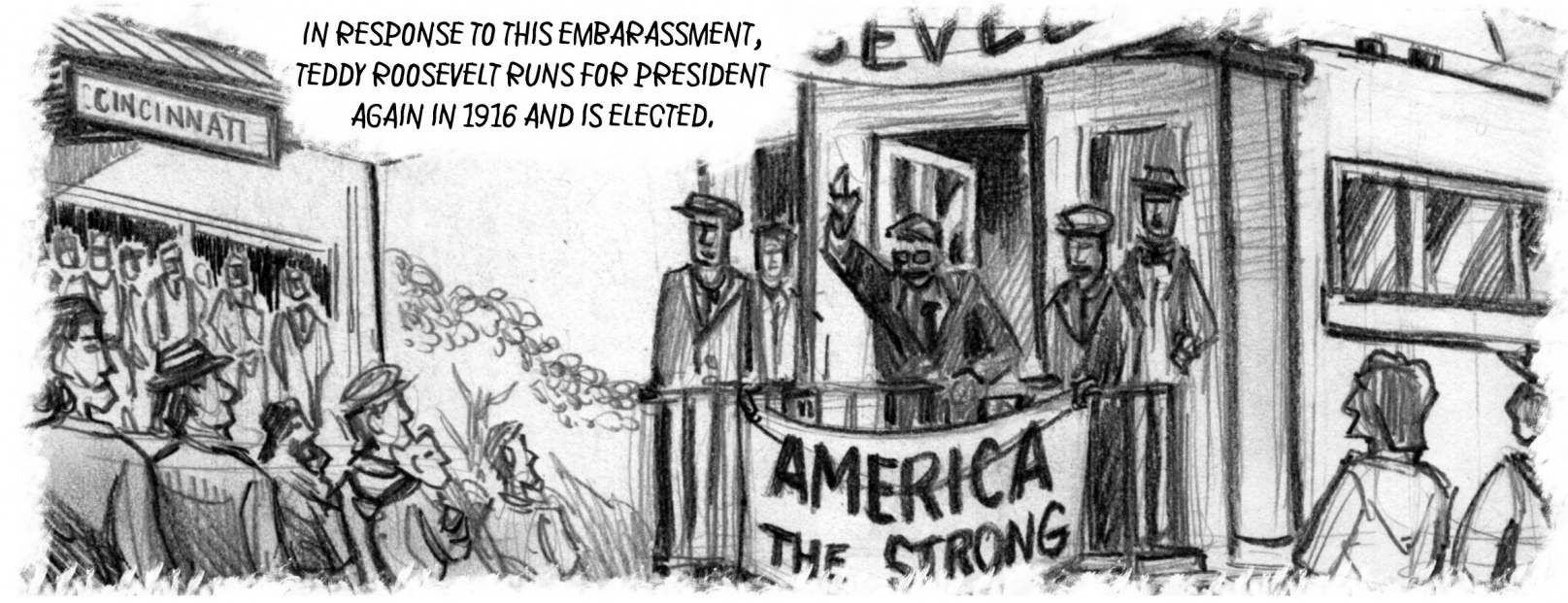


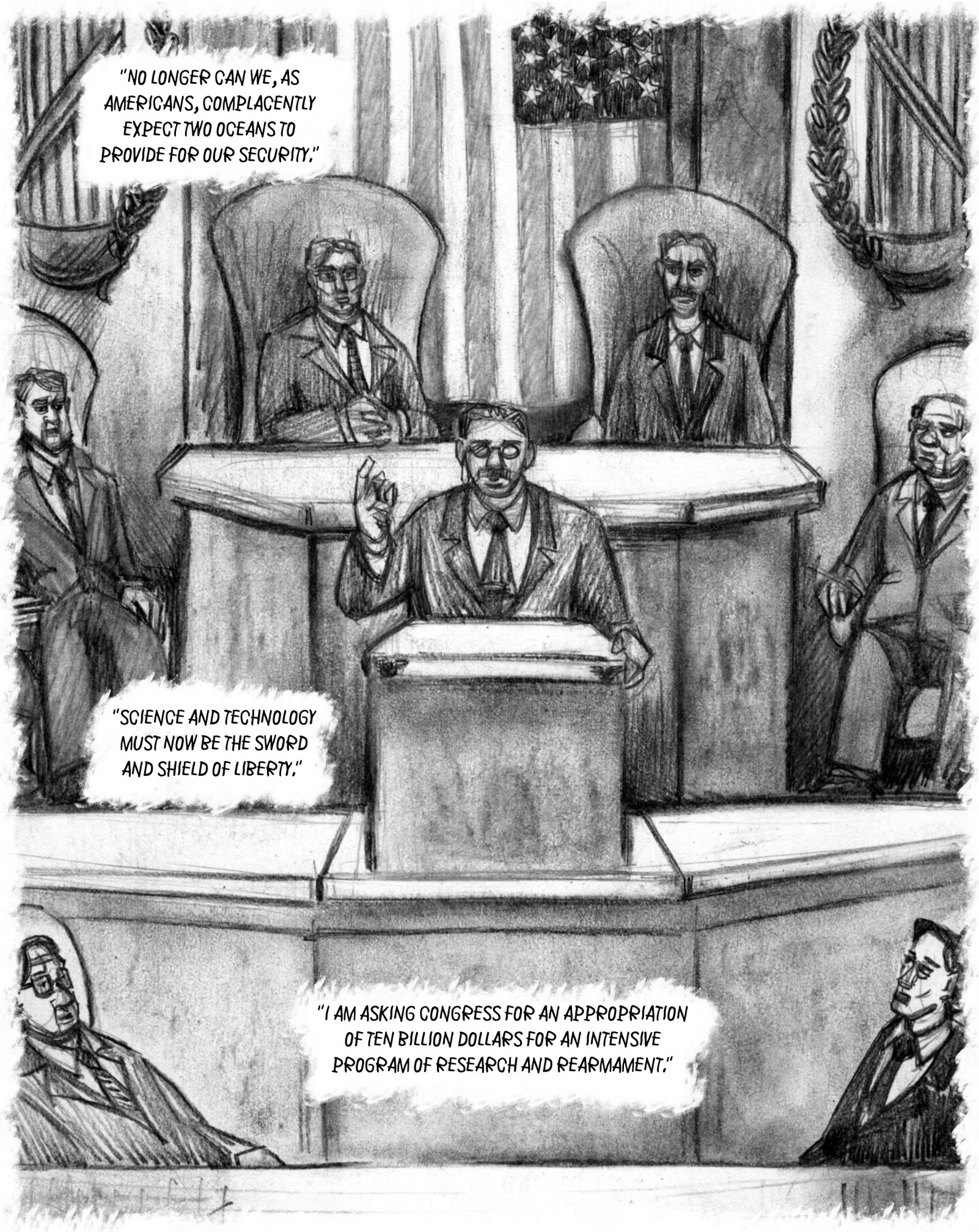
A FLEET OF IMPERIAL WAR ZEPPELINS CROSSES THE NORTH POLE AND CRUISES MENACINGLY DOWN THE U.S. EAST COAST.

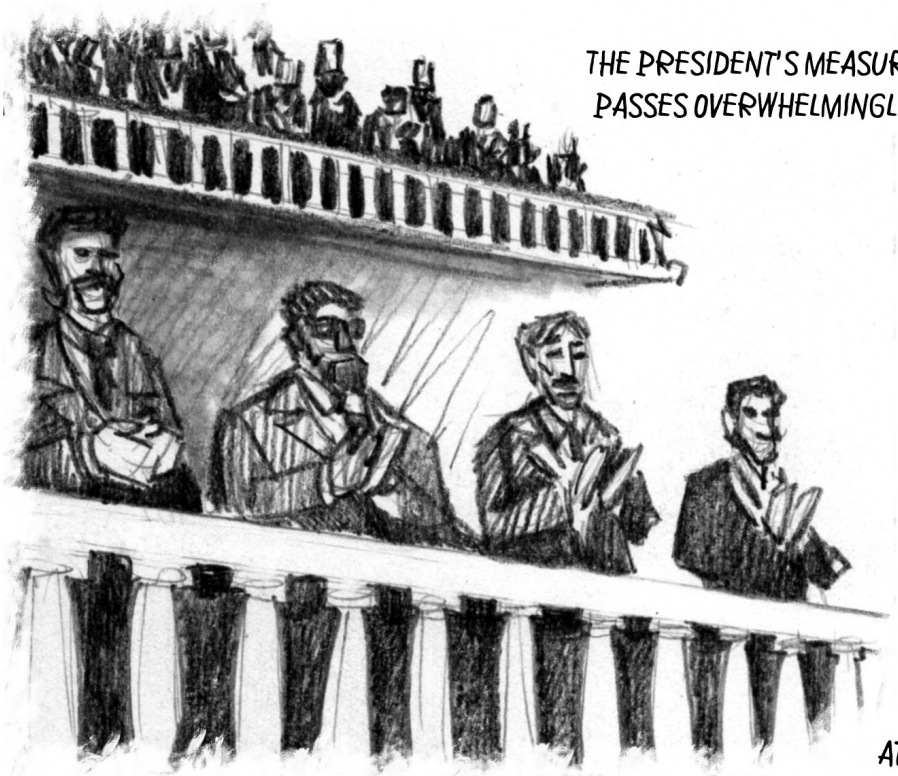
PRIMITIVE U.S. AIR DEFENSES WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPLESS AGAINST THIS.



IN RESPONSE TO THIS EMBARASSMENT, TEDDY ROOSEVELT RUNS FOR PRESIDENT AGAIN IN 1916 AND IS ELECTED.




"NO LONGER CAN WE, AS AMERICANS, COMPLACENTLY EXPECT TWO OCEANS TO PROVIDE FOR OUR SECURITY."
"SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUST NOW BE THE SWORD AND SHIELD OF LIBERTY."
"I AM ASKING CONGRESS FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF TEN BILLION DOLLARS FOR AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF RESEARCH AND REARMAMENT."



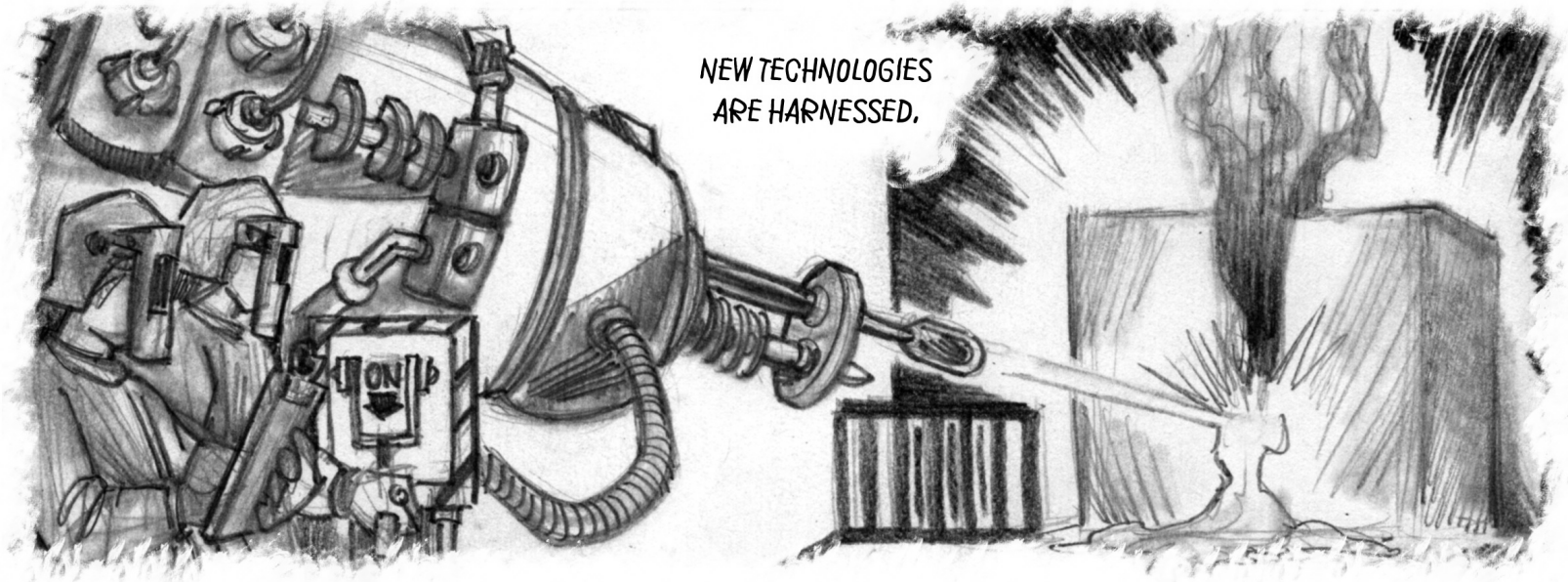
THE PRESIDENT'S MEASURE PASSES OVERWHELMINGLY.



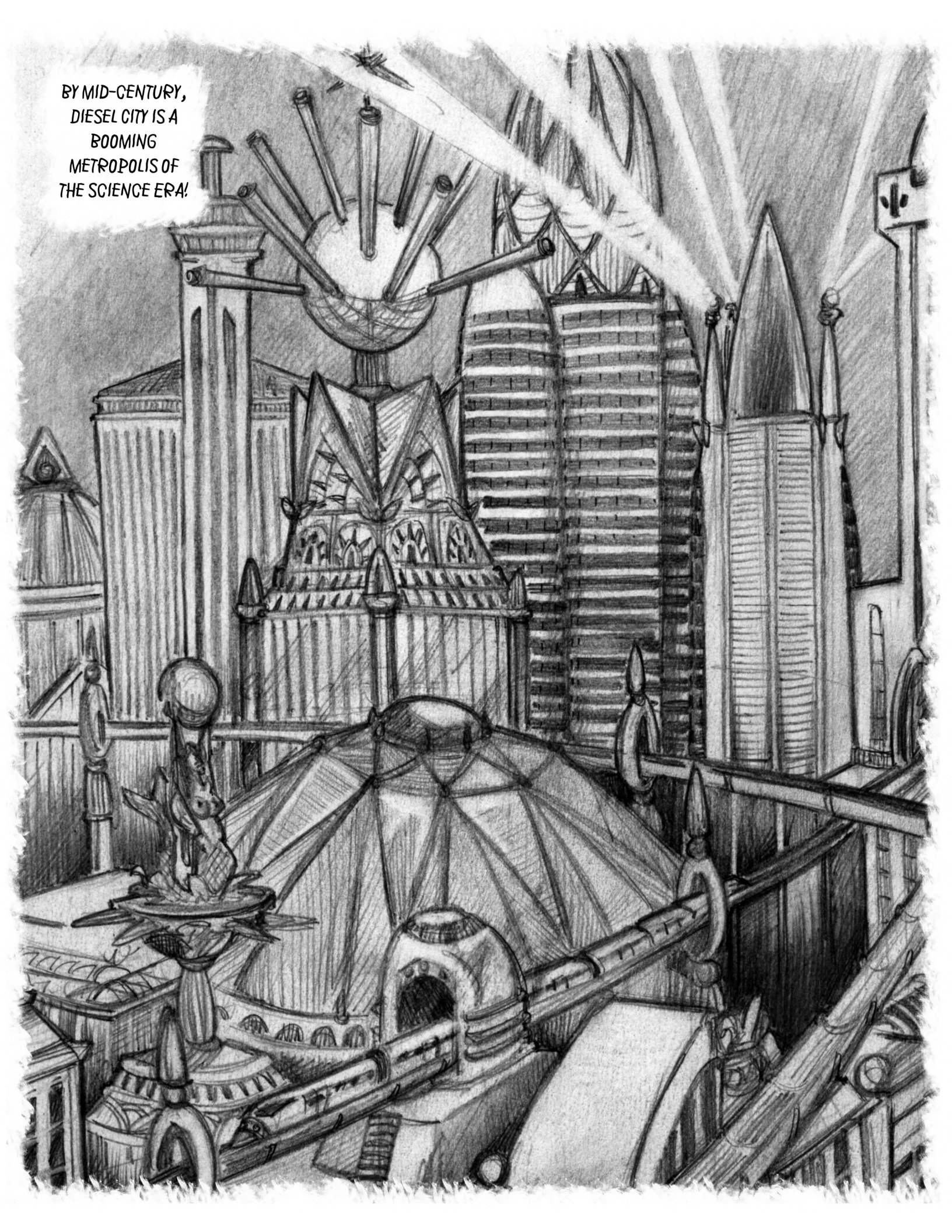
AT A SITE DEEP INSIDE THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, A MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS IS UNDERTAKEN. THE NEW SITE IS CALLED "DIESEL CITY."



NEW ARMED FORCES ARE CREATED.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE HARNESSED.


BY MID-CENTURY, DIESEL CITY IS A BOOMING METROPOLIS OF THE SCIENCE ERA!


BUT LIKE ALL BOOMTOWNS, DIESEL CITY HAS ITS DARK UNDERSIDE. THERE ARE GANGSTERS...
...AND VICE...
...AND POVERTY. HERE, A STRUGGLING YOUNG WORKMAN NAMED VERNON JACKSON...

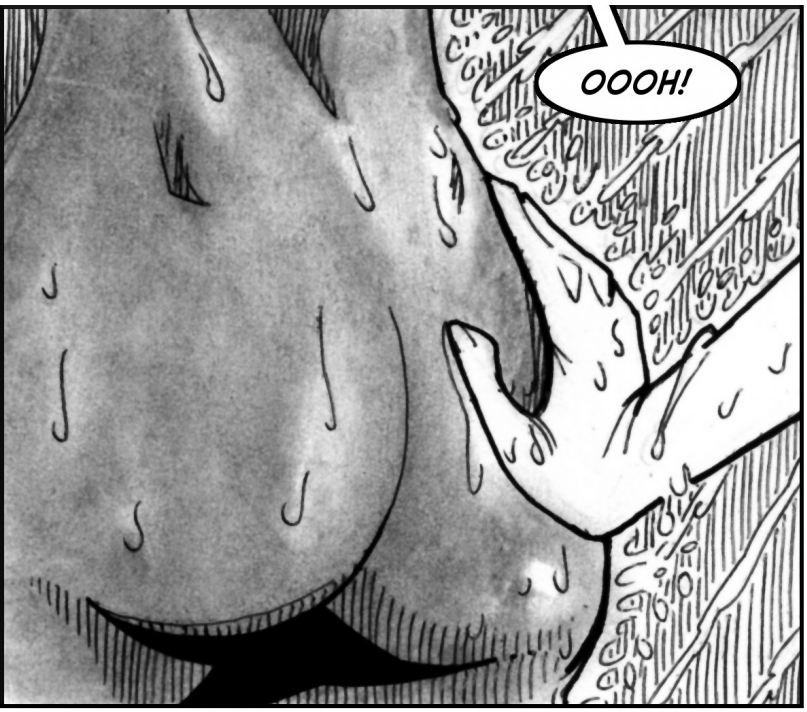

I DUNNO MEDS. WHAT KIND OF WEIRD GIRL TAKES A SHOWER FOR *TWO HOURS?*
TRUST ME ON THIS. YOU PLAY PREDATOR AND SHE'LL PLAY PREY. SHE *WANTS* TO PLAY PREY.
SHE MIGHT NOT *QUITE* KNOW IT YET, BUT...
WOMEN'S
ATHLETICS


YOU KEEP WATCH OUT HERE.
SHOWERS

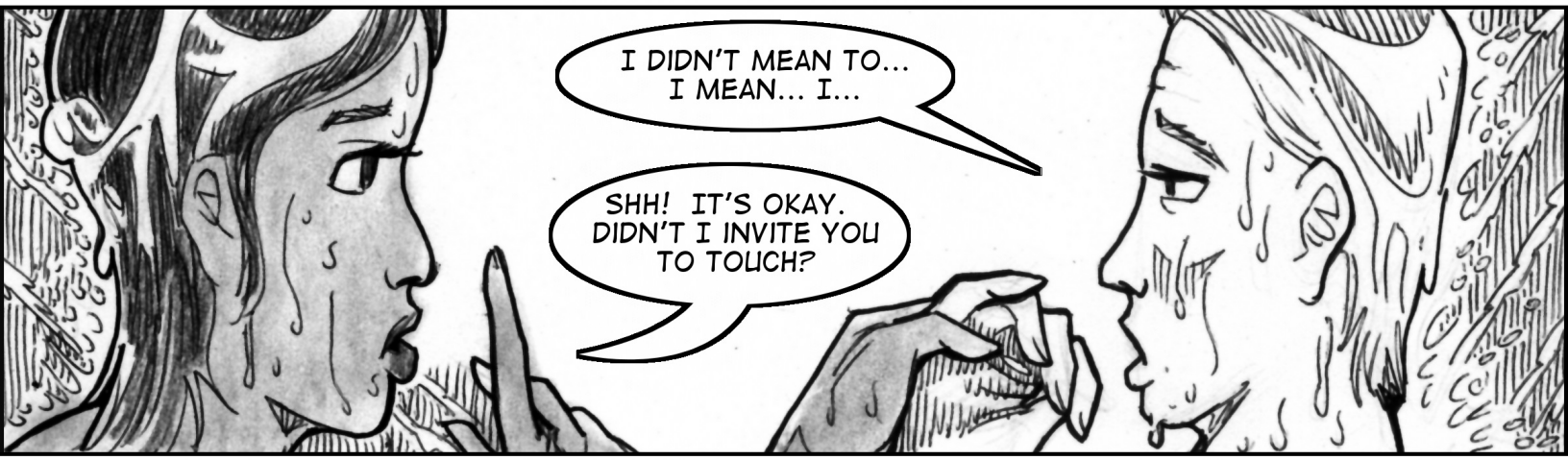



TURN
CLENCH!


SAY... COULD YOU... HELP ME WITH SOMETHING?
UM...
SURE. WHAT?
I HAVE THIS ITCH ON MY LOWER BACK WHICH I CAN'T QUITE REACH. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD...
WELL...
UH...
...
ALMOST... A LITTLE LOWER...


OOOH!


OH, MY GOSH!


I DIDN'T MEAN TO... I MEAN... I...
SHH! IT'S OKAY. DIDN'T I INVITE YOU TO TOUCH?


YOU'RE STILL INVITED TO TOUCH.


SEE? YOU'RE TOUCHING. AND LIGHTNING ISN'T STRIKING.


AT LEAST, NOT *LITERALLY* STRIKING.











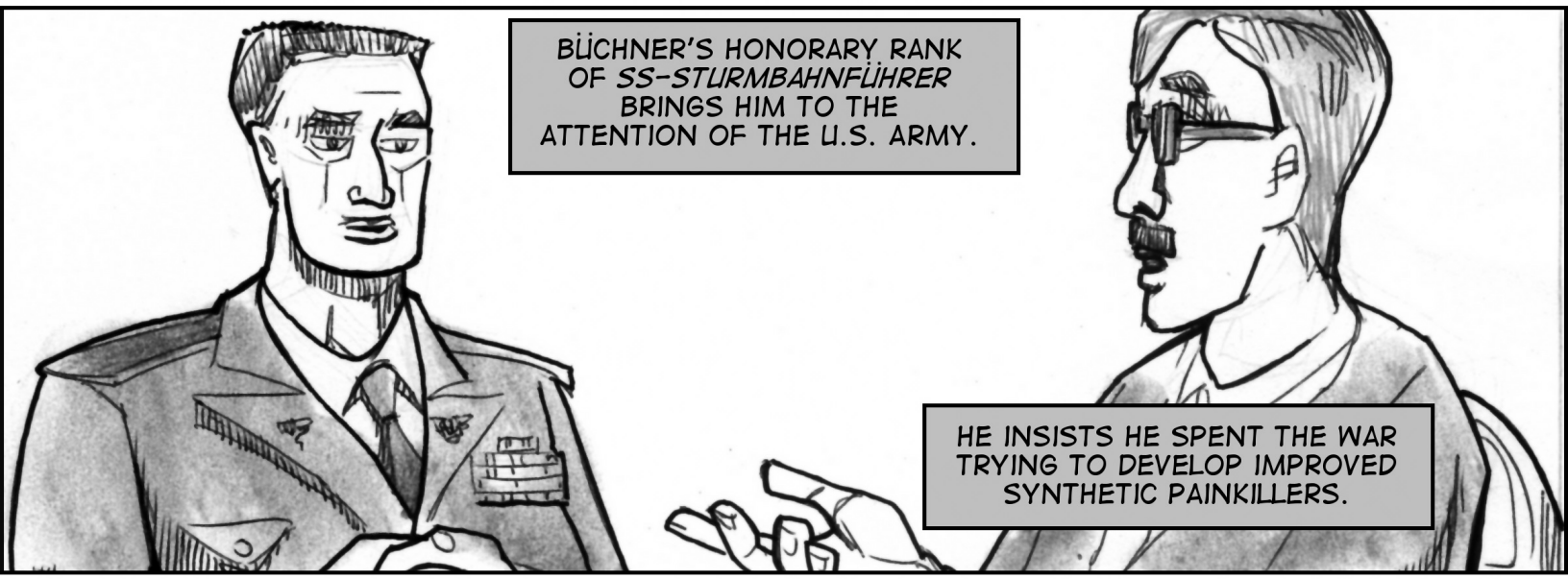

THE TRICKY THING WAS THE ORIGINAL FORMULA WAS INTENDED FOR THE BRAIN.
Ooh!
Oh, Yes!
WOMEN'S
Aah!
Oh!
Oh, my gosh!
ACCORDING TO HIS GLAGOLITIC CIPHER, VERNON JACKSON THOUGHT HE COULD TURN ALL THE WHITE BOYS GAY. THAT WOULD HAVE SHOWN THEM.
SO WHEN WE RULE THE WORLD ARE WE GOING TO TURN ALL THE WOMEN AND LET THE MALE HALF JUST WITHER AWAY?
WE'D LOSE NICE BOYS LIKE THAT TAYLOR CHASE, WHO WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US THIS PEARL.
THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.
LIKE HE'S CLEARLY A STRAIGHT GUY AND SOMEHOW NOT QUITE... MALE?
YEAH.
SO WHAT'S NEXT IN "BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY?"
OH, YOU'RE JUST NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS ONE...

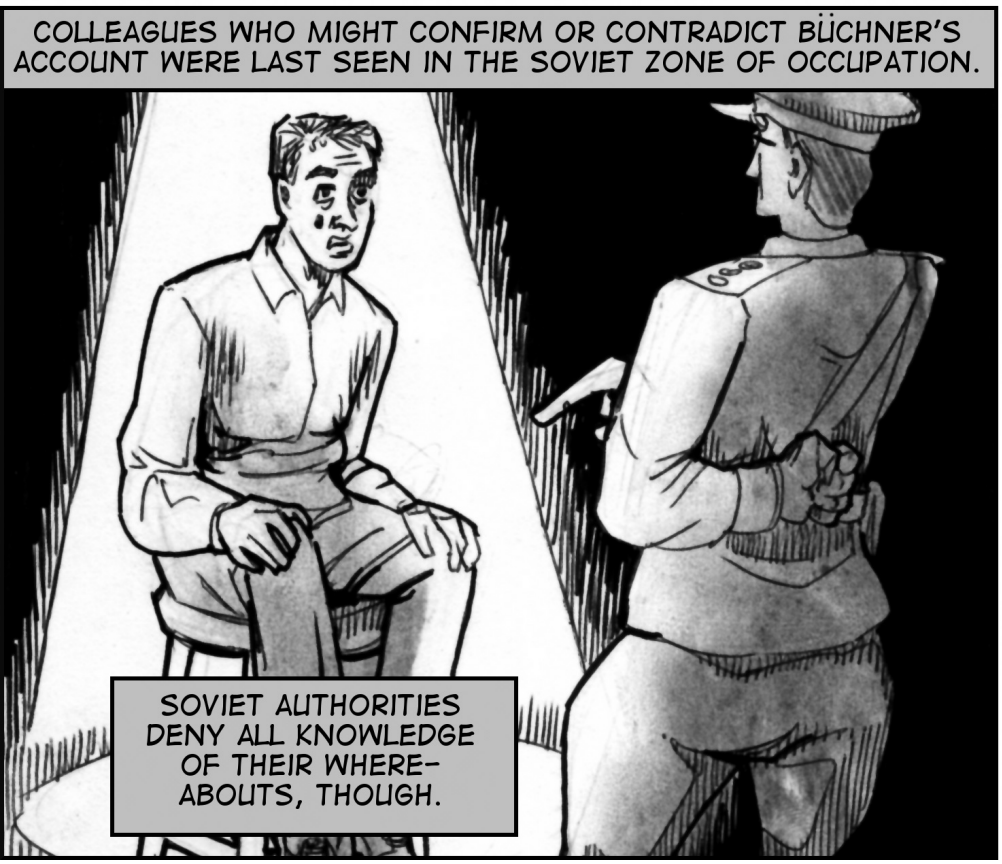
WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

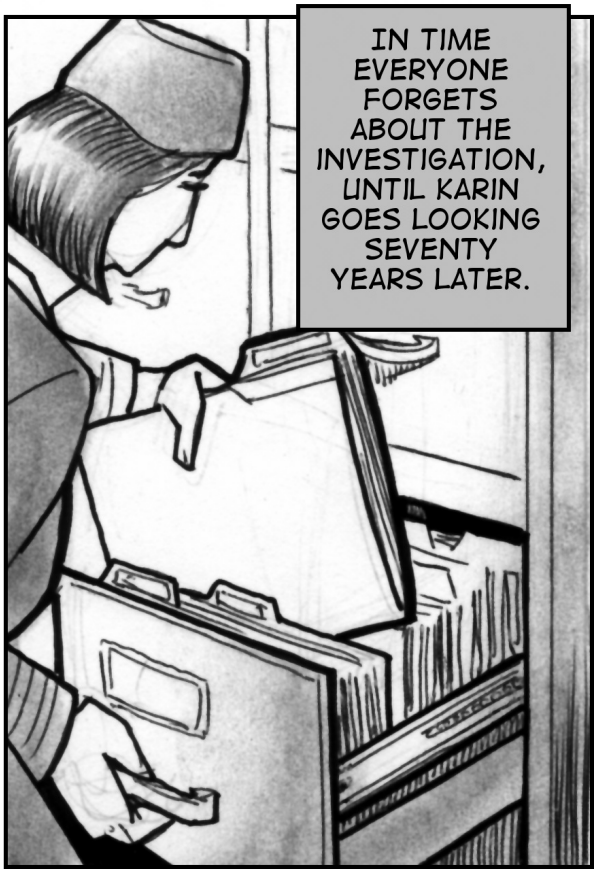



TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER IV
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


KARIN HAS CAUGHT THE HISTORY BUG.
SHE IS DIGGING THROUGH DOCUMENTS IN DR. BÜCHNER'S PAST.


BÜCHNER'S HONORARY RANK OF *SS-STURMBAHNFÜHRER* BRINGS HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. ARMY.
HE INSISTS HE SPENT THE WAR TRYING TO DEVELOP IMPROVED SYNTHETIC PAINKILLERS.


COLLEAGUES WHO MIGHT CONFIRM OR CONTRADICT BÜCHNER'S ACCOUNT WERE LAST SEEN IN THE SOVIET ZONE OF OCCUPATION.
SOVIET AUTHORITIES DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS, THOUGH.


IN TIME EVERYONE FORGETS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION, UNTIL KARIN GOES LOOKING SEVENTY YEARS LATER.

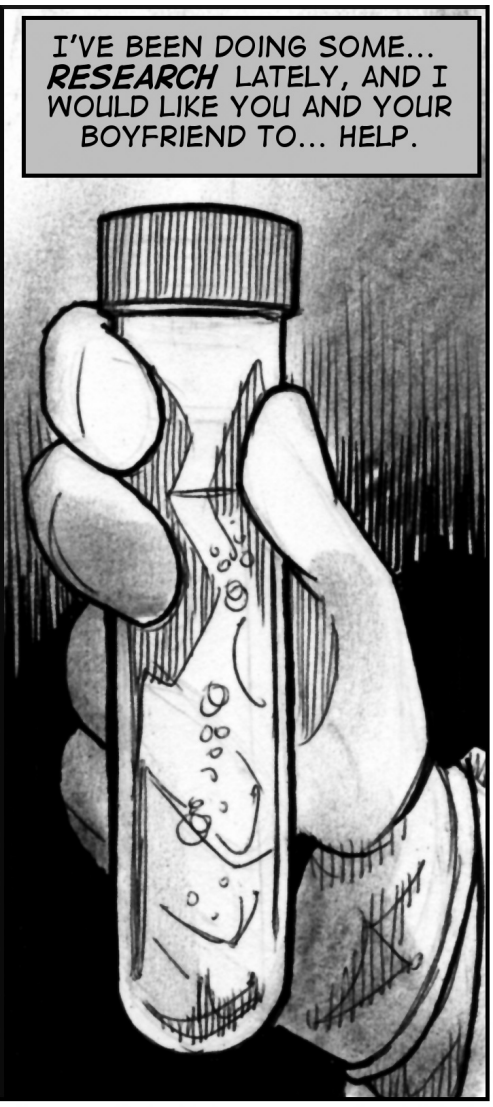

KARIN SURE HAS CAUGHT THE BUG, ALRIGHT.
МОСКВА
TO THE POINT OF GIVING UP VACATION TIME TO GO CHECK ON THINGS.
"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 4
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS








YOU HAVE GOT TO GET ME SOME MORE OF THAT "TEA!"
OLD FAMILY RECIPES DON'T COME FOR FREE.
PLEASE... IT'S SO AWESOME. I'LL DO ANYTHING...
ALMOST...
TELL YOU WHAT, JESSICA. I NEED TWO THINGS.
FIRST, MY COUSIN GHANIYAH IN RAMALLAH DESERVES A PROPER WEDDING FEAST. BUT AN ISRAELI EMBARGO HAS MADE HER FAMILY POOR.
A NICE GIFT BY WIRE TO HER WOULD CERTAINLY SOFTEN MY GRANDMOTHER'S HEART.
AND THE SECOND THING?


I'VE BEEN DOING SOME... *RESEARCH* LATELY, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND TO... HELP.


YOU UNDERSTAND ME, YES?
YES, BUT I CAN'T SPEAK FOR MICHAEL.



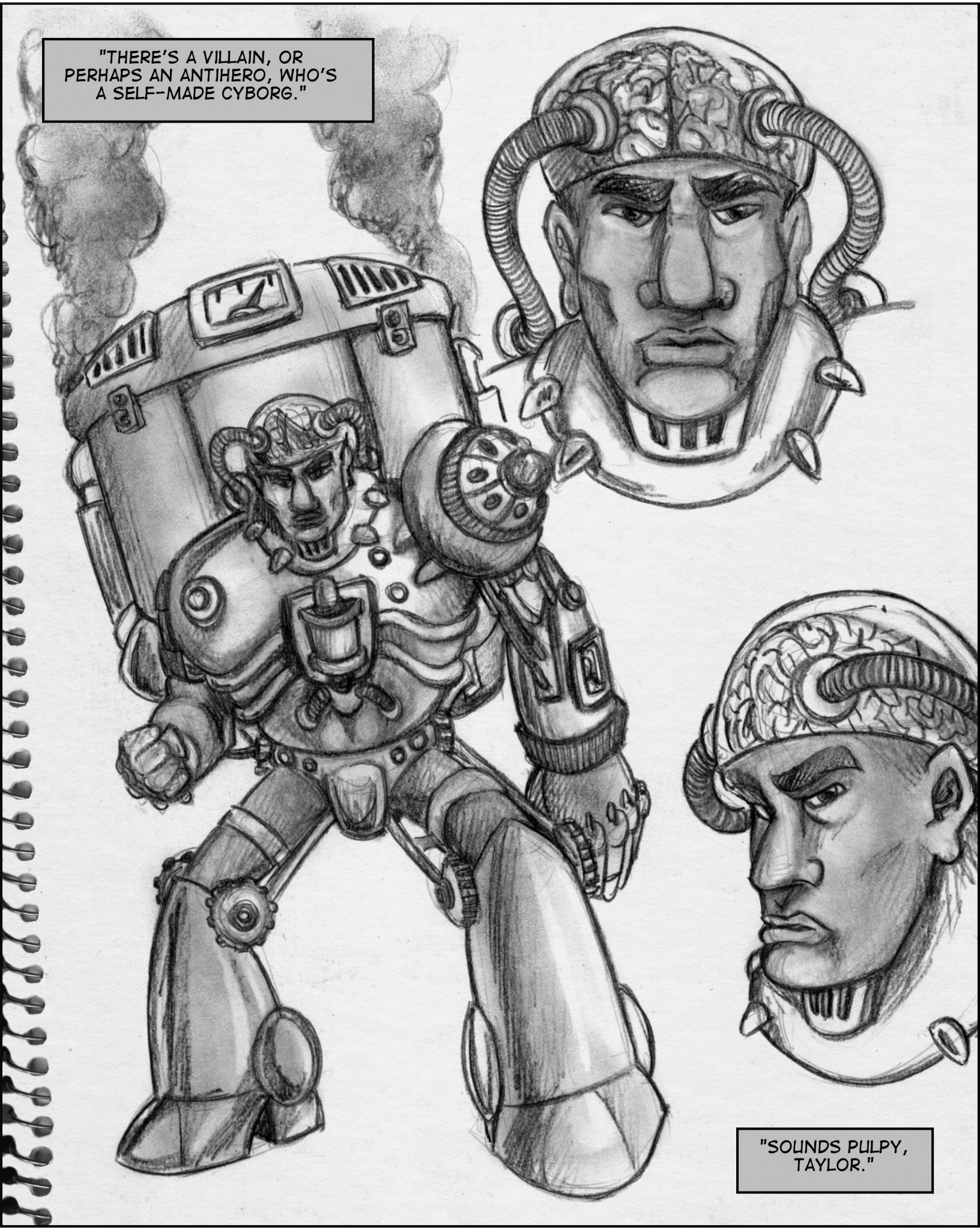



IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'VE PRESERVED ALL THESE, MR. LARSON.
CALL ME JOE, TAYLOR. AND FETCH ME A SPARE EIMAC-304TH FROM THE BOX ON THE TOP SHELF, WILL YOU?
SPICY MYSTERY STORIES


AH, NOW SHE'S BETTER.
...THESE PEOPLE, THEY CROSS OUR BORDERS, THEY TAKE AWAY OUR JOBS, THEY RAPE OUR WOMEN...

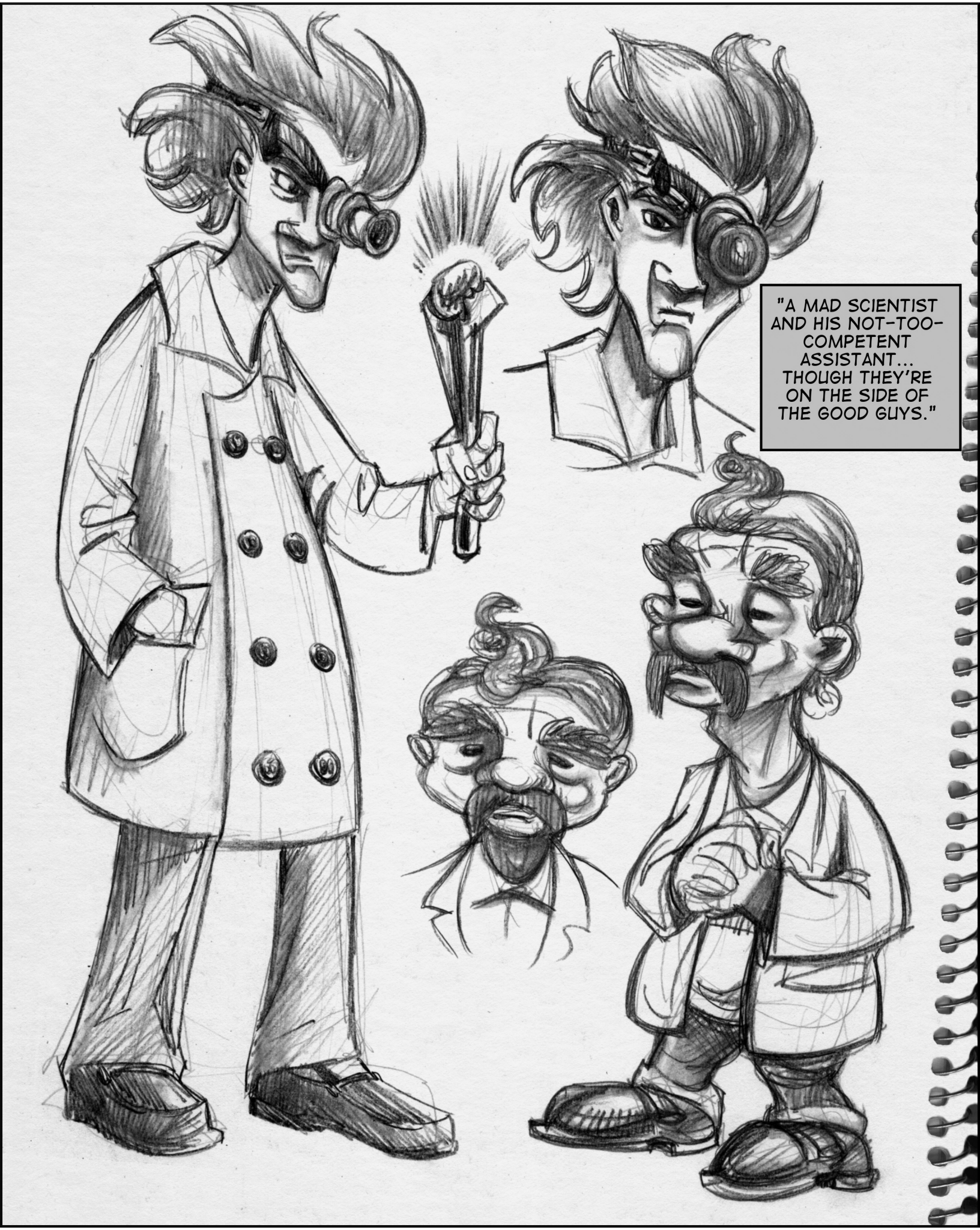

...AND THOSE IDIOTS IN WASHINGTON...
SHAME THERE'S NOTHING ON ANYMORE.
CLICK!


SO HOW'S THIS COMIC BOOK YOU'RE WORKING ON GOING?
I'VE WORKED UP SOME WORLD DETAIL AND SOME MORE CHARACTERS...


"THERE'S A VILLAIN, OR PERHAPS AN ANTIHERO, WHO'S A SELF-MADE CYBORG."
"SOUNDS PULPY, TAYLOR."

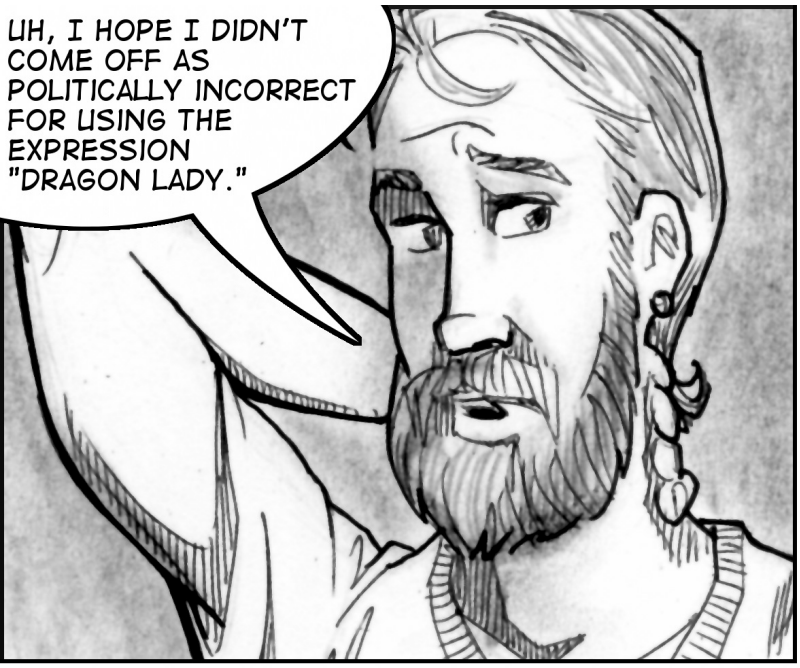

"THERE'S ALSO A PULP HEROINE NAMED BETSY BROWN."

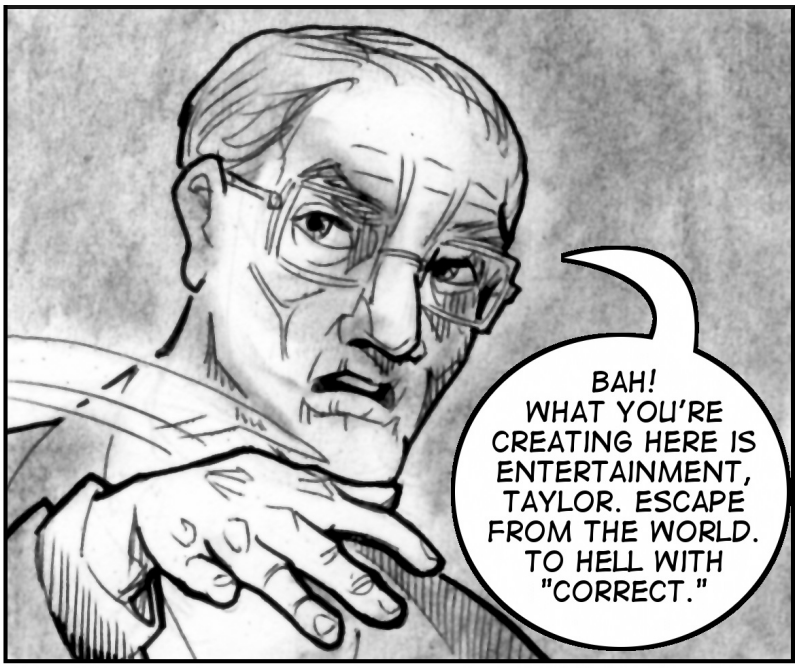

"AND A PULP HERO NAMED DAN STEELE."
STEELE

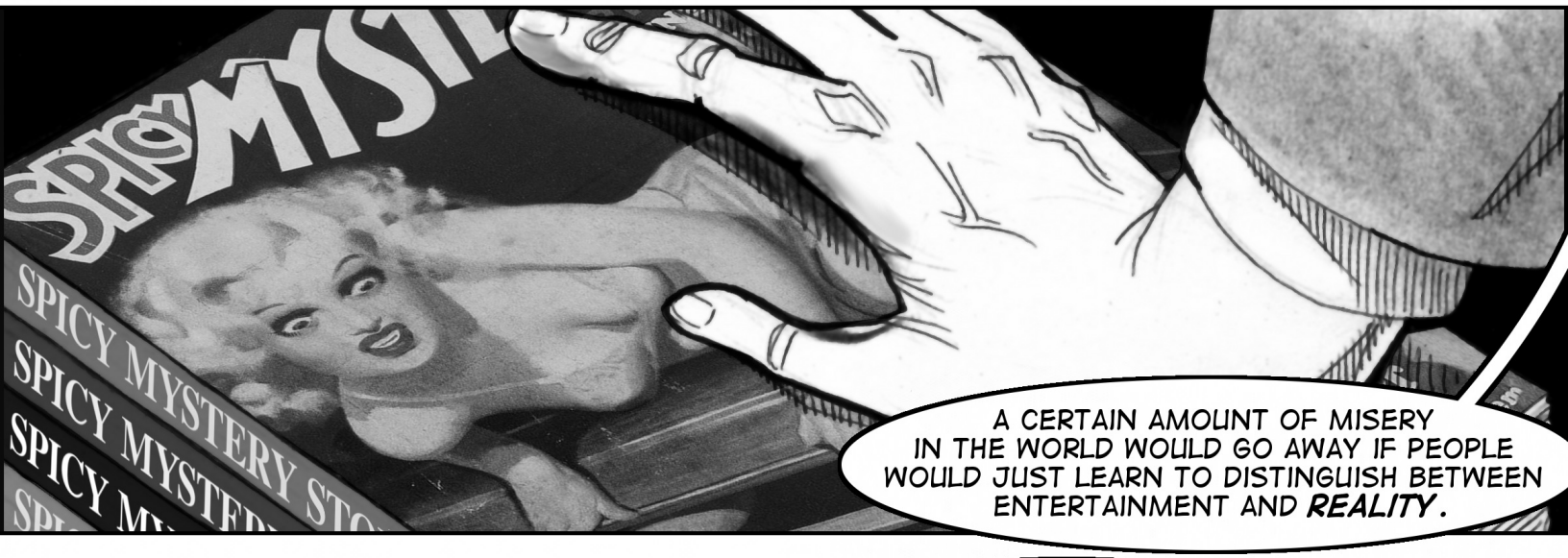

"A MAD SCIENTIST AND HIS NOT-TOO-COMPETENT ASSISTANT... THOUGH THEY'RE ON THE SIDE OF THE GOOD GUYS."

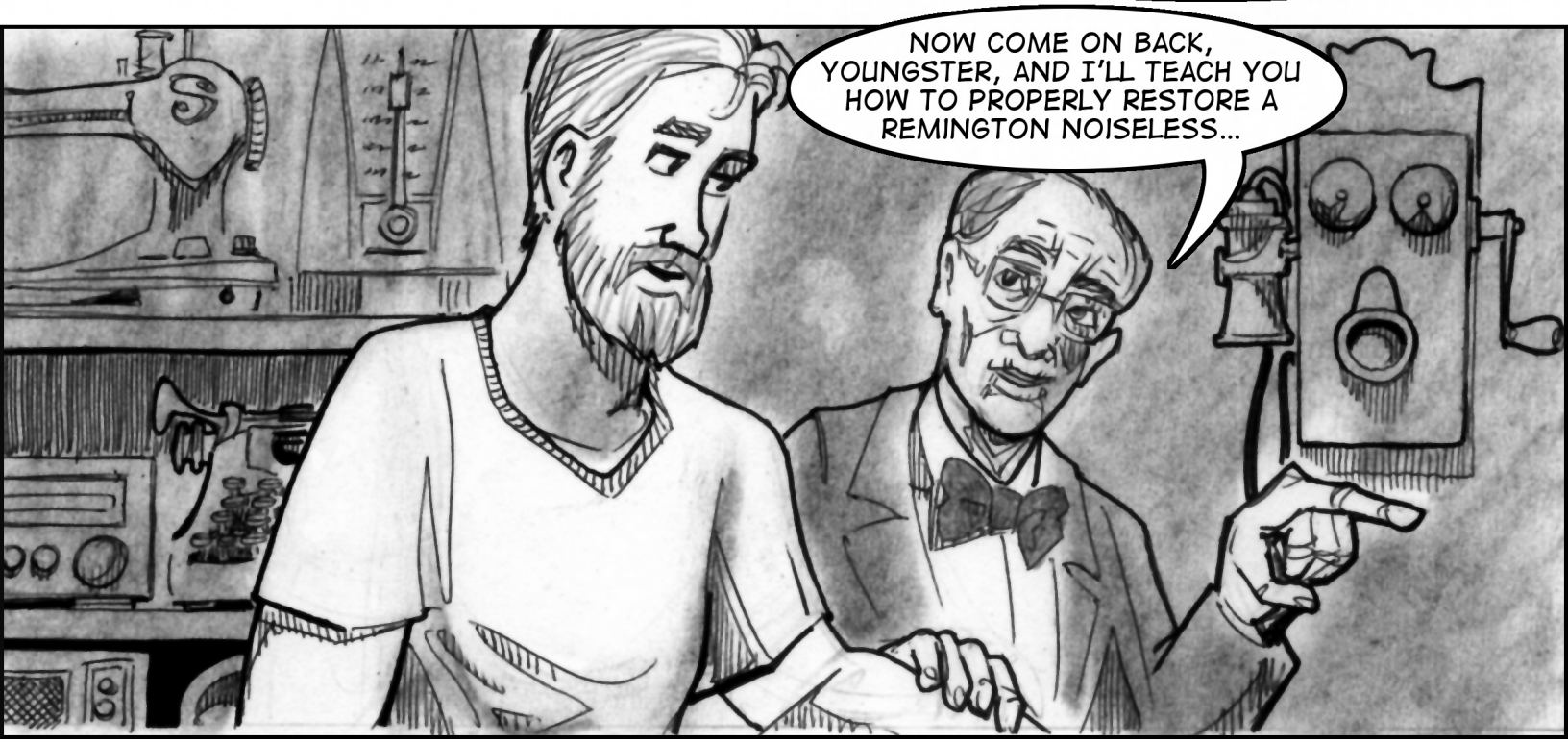
"AND A VILLAINESS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE VILLAIN, SORT OF A DRAGON-LADY TYPE."




UH, I HOPE I DIDN'T COME OFF AS POLITICALLY INCORRECT FOR USING THE EXPRESSION "DRAGON LADY."


BAH! WHAT YOU'RE CREATING HERE IS ENTERTAINMENT, TAYLOR. ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD. TO HELL WITH "CORRECT."


SPICY MYSTERY
A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MISERY IN THE WORLD WOULD GO AWAY IF PEOPLE WOULD JUST LEARN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ENTERTAINMENT AND ***REALITY***.


NOW COME ON BACK, YOUNGSTER, AND I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO PROPERLY RESTORE A REMINGTON NOISELESS...

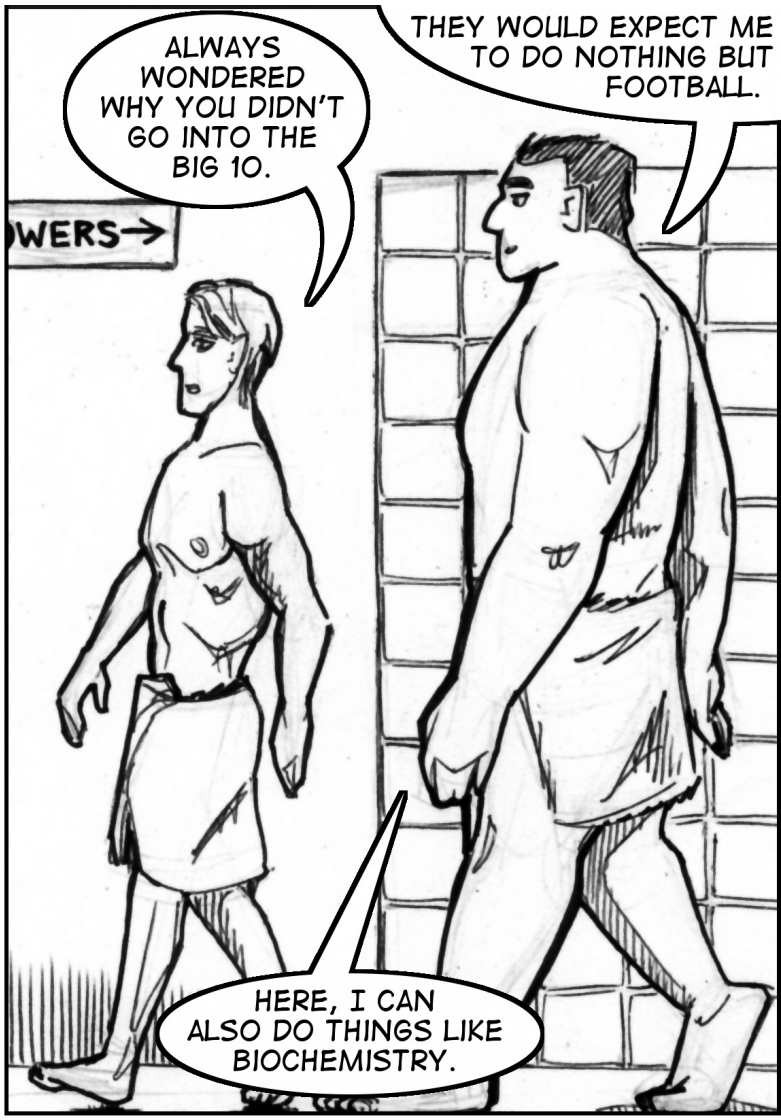

אדוני, איתרתי העברה בנקאית מארצות הברית למשפחה ברמאללה.
האם יש בחבילה כשלעצמה משהו חשוד?
Adapter Title
Rates Scale
Upload Rate
Numeric Rates
Time
Download Rate
אמנם אינו עם המשפחה, אבל יש להם בן דוד בגנוסיס קולג', סמוך למקום שממנו בוצעה ההעברה.


נא להעלות את דרגת הקדימות של המעקב אחריו, סגן.
כן המפקד.
כל מה שקורה במקום הארור ההוא חשוד כשלעצמו


سيدي، لقد التقطت حوالة من الولايات المتحدة إلى عائلة في رام الله.
هل هناك أي شيء مريب في جوهره بشأنها؟
ليس بخصوص العائلة، ولكن لديهم ابن عم في كلية غنوسيس، بالقرب من مكان إصدار الحوالة.

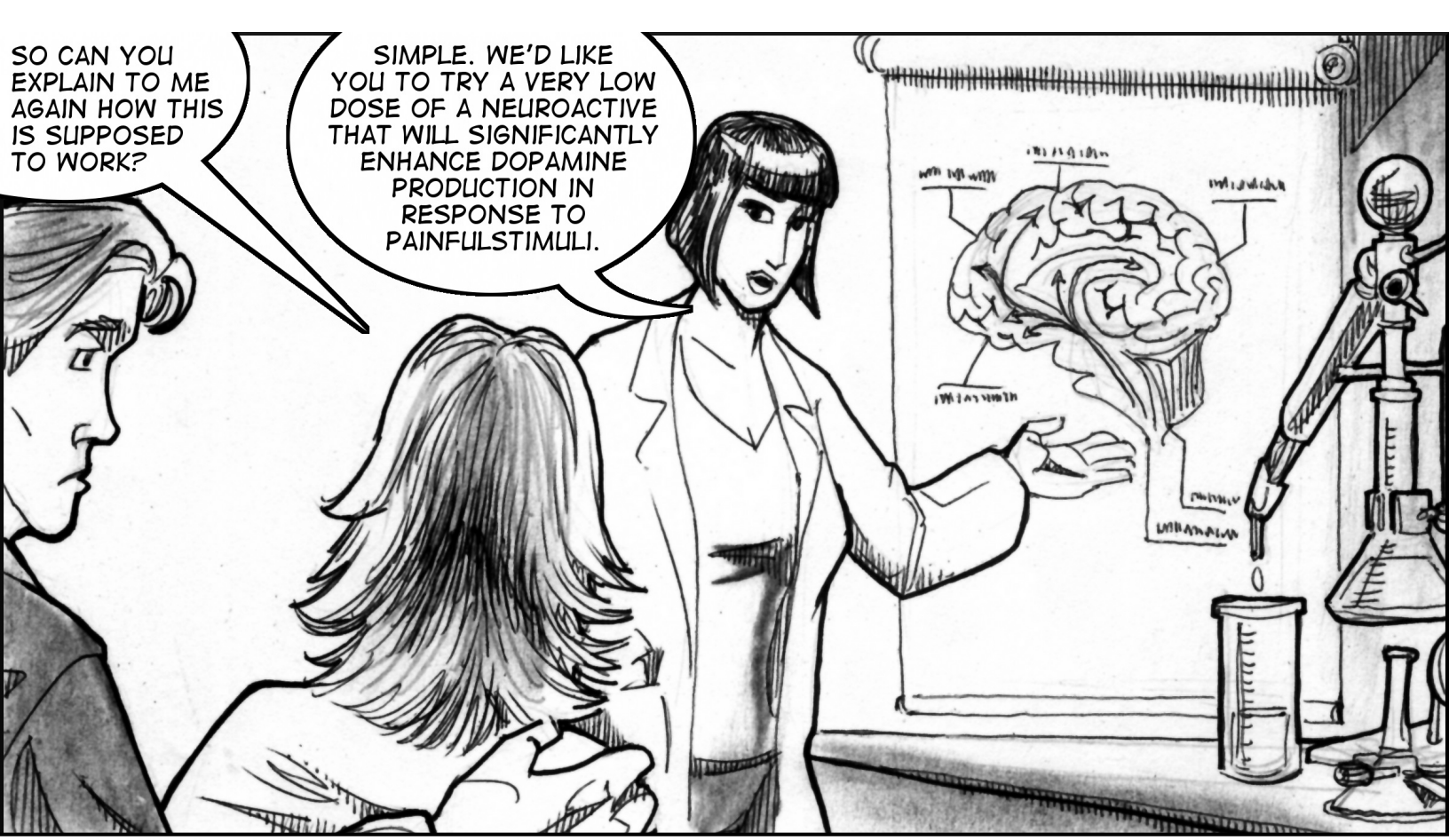

قُم بزيادة أولوية مراقبتنا له، أيها الملازم.
أجل، سيدي.
أي شيء يحدث في ذلك المكان اللعين هو مريب في جوهره.


HOLY CRAP, IGOR. I MEAN, *EIGHT* SACKS? YOU'RE THE TERROR OF THE DAMN CONFERENCE...
I PLAY NO HARDER THAN I HAVE TO.


ALWAYS WONDERED WHY YOU DIDN'T GO INTO THE BIG 10.
THEY WOULD EXPECT ME TO DO NOTHING BUT FOOTBALL.
HERE, I CAN ALSO DO THINGS LIKE BIOCHEMISTRY.


Реквием
А. Ахматова
LITERATURE, TOO.


SURE I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO COME TO CHILI NIGHT? EVERYBODY LOVES CHILI NIGHT.
NOPE. SINGER HOUSE FOR ME. BEST -- AND *ONLY*-- KOSHER FOOD ON CAMPUS.


SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN HOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO WORK?
SIMPLE. WE'D LIKE YOU TO TRY A VERY LOW DOSE OF A NEUROACTIVE THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE DOPAMINE PRODUCTION IN RESPONSE TO PAINFULSTIMULI.


WE WON'T HAVE TO GET SHOTS OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?
SLIDE
RIGHT. YOU CAN JUST VAPE IT.


I HOPE THIS IS SAFE.
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE.


OW!
ZAP!
THAT HURT!
UHH...
I GOTTA TRY THIS.


MAYBE WE COULD TRY A BIGGER DOSE NEXT TIME?
MAYBE. SAFETY FIRST.
CHEM LAB C

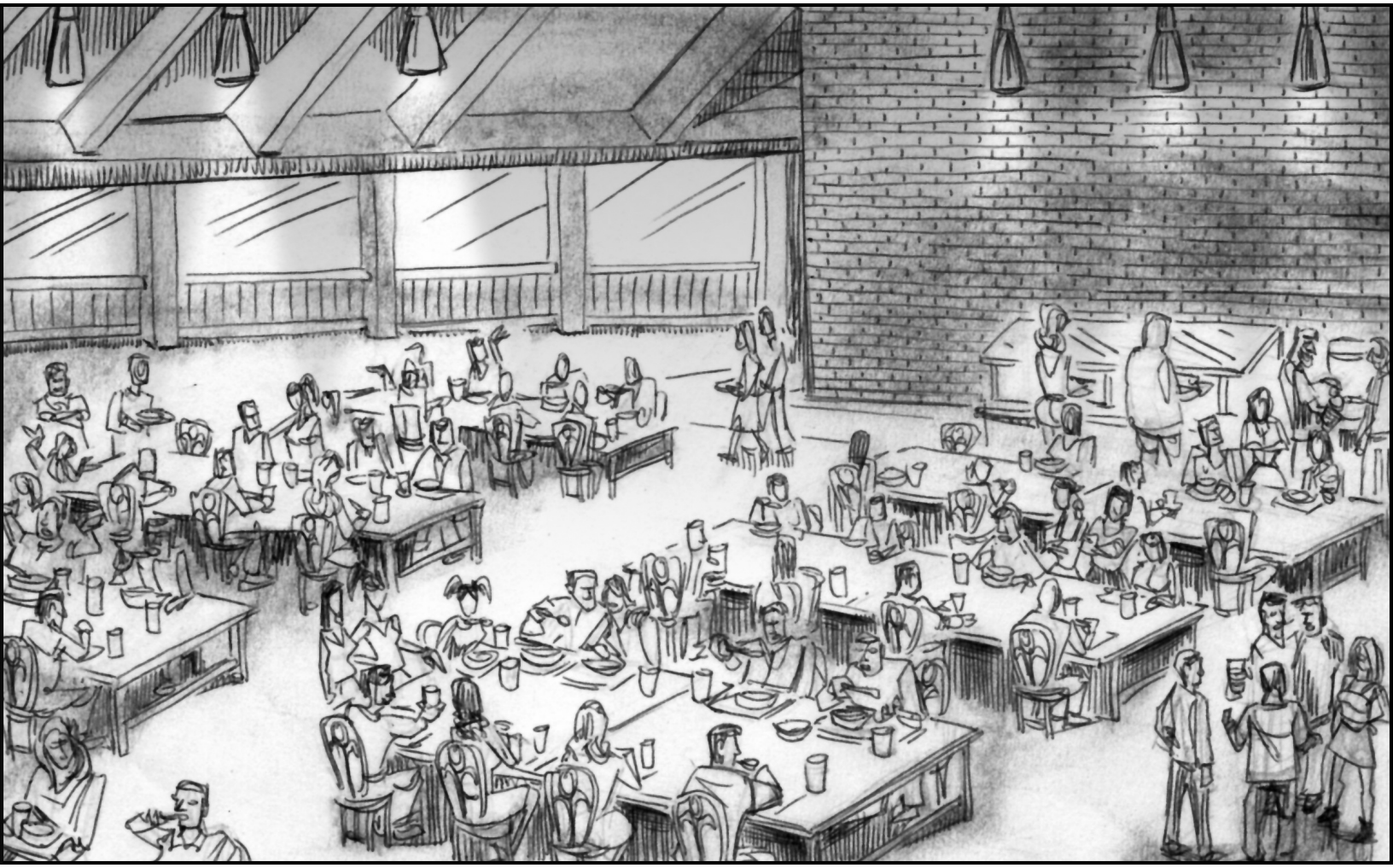

HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR BEING SO COOPERATIVE.
IT'S AT HIGH CONCENTRATION, SO BE CAREFUL.

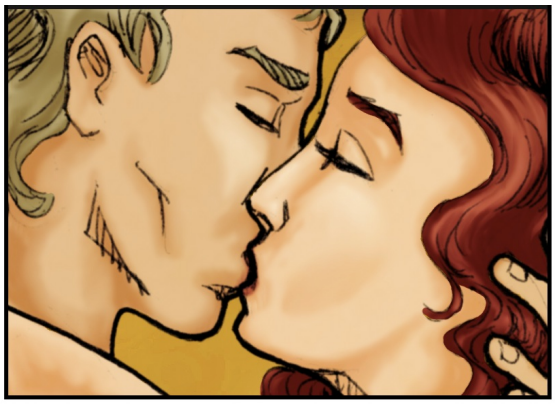

PRETTY AMAZING.
I KNEW A GIRL ONCE WHO WAS REALLY INTO PAIN. SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE PAIN BUT SHE REALLY LIKED WHERE IT GOT HER TO.

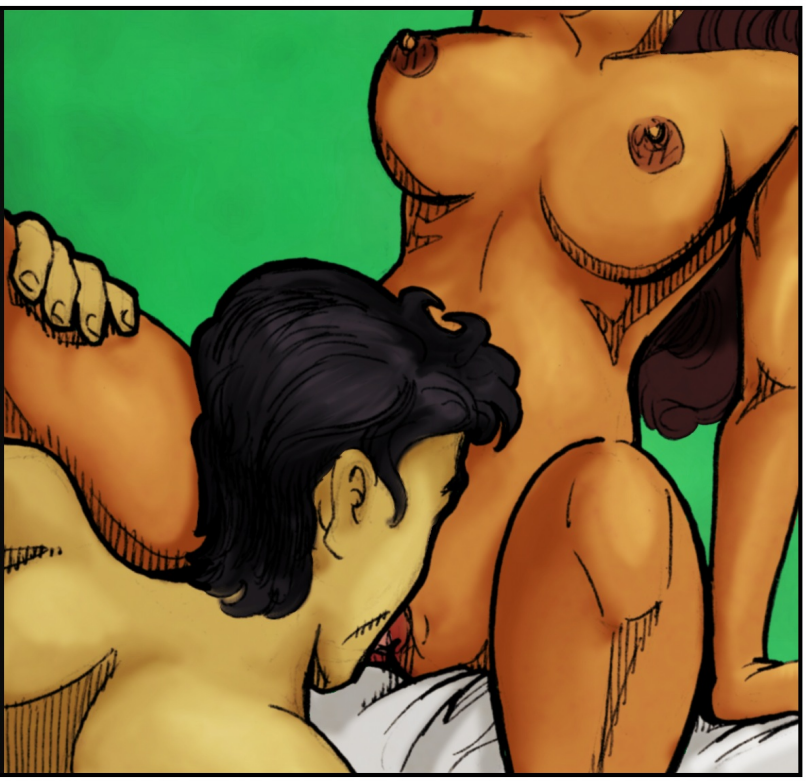

WELL, NOW WE CAN HELP THEM GET THERE FASTER.

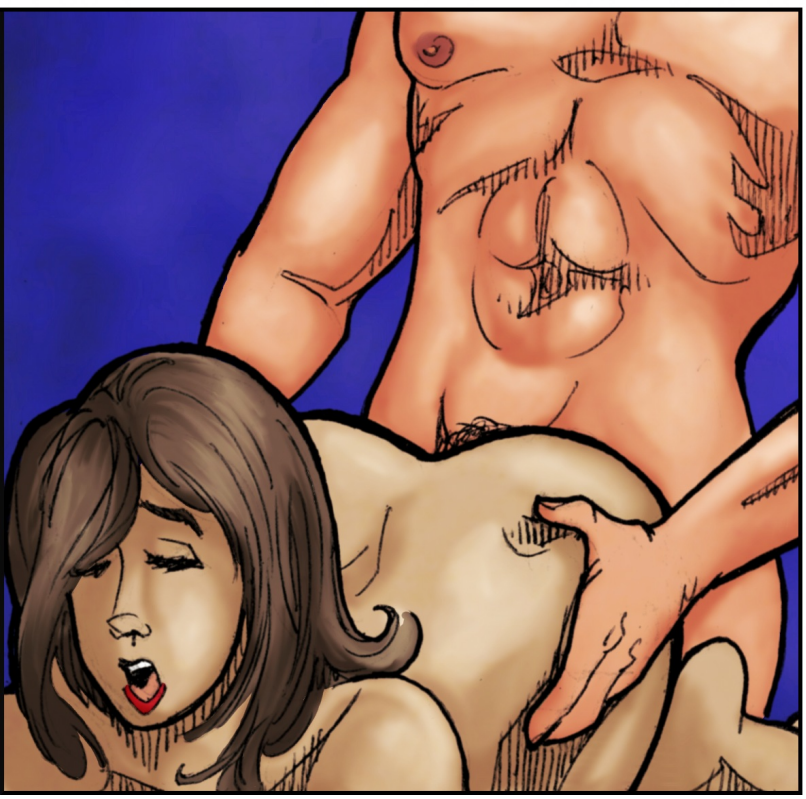
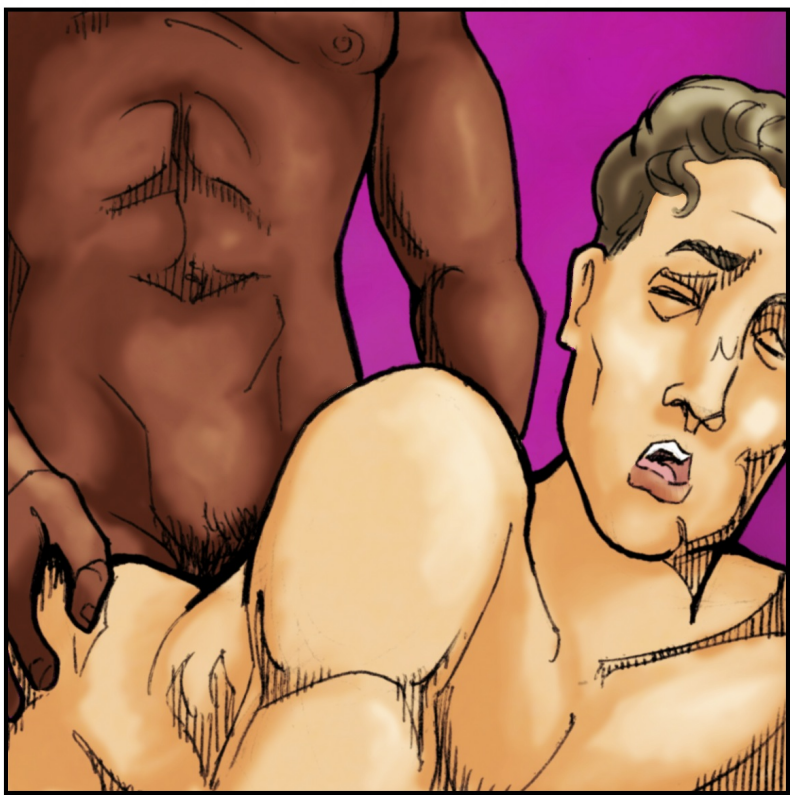

EVERYBODY LOVES CHILI NIGHT...


THIS ONE WILL BE ESPECIALLY MEMORABLE.



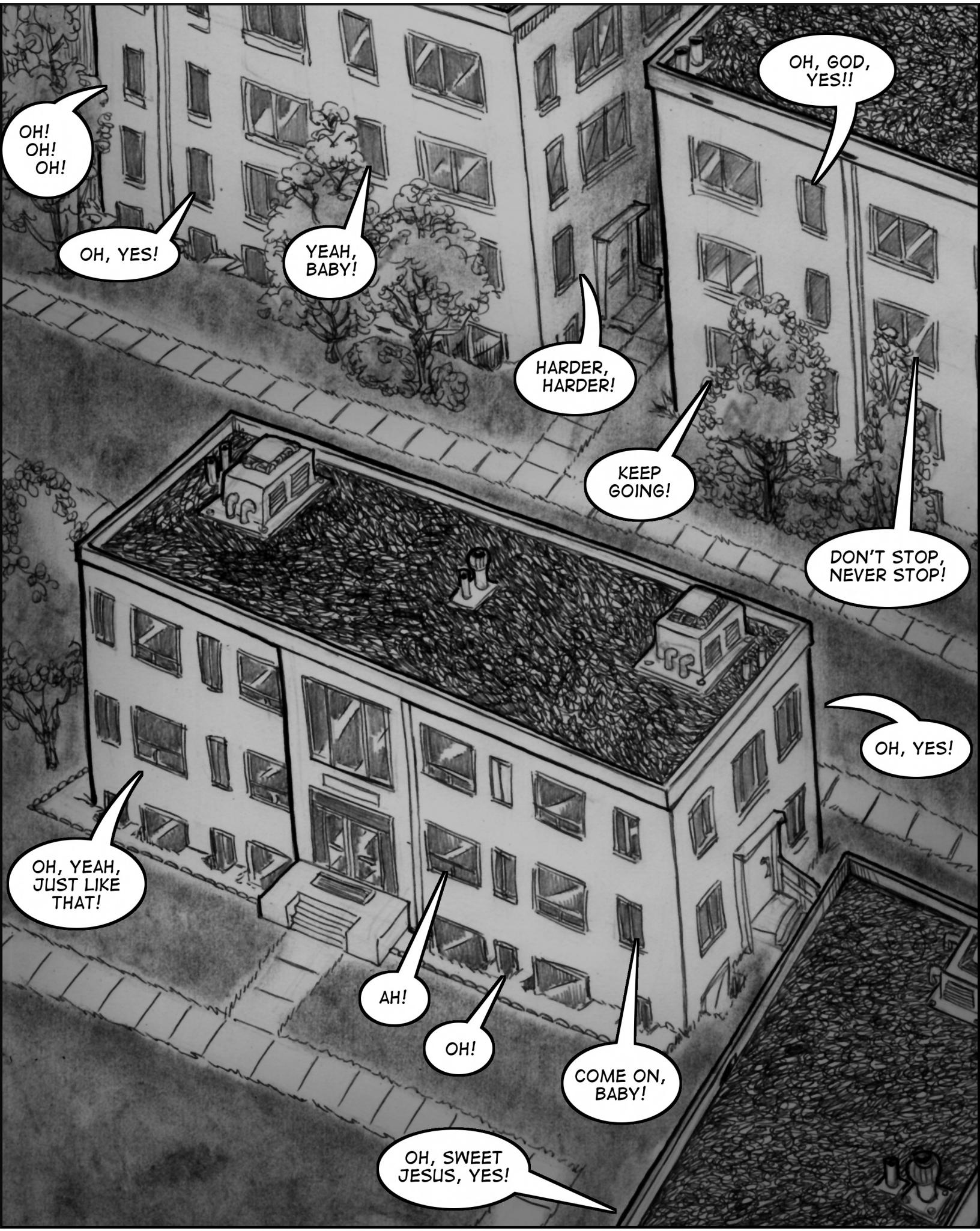










OH, GOD, YES!!
OH! OH! OH!
OH, YES!
YEAH, BABY!
HARDER, HARDER!
KEEP GOING!
DON'T STOP, NEVER STOP!
OH, YES!
OH, YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT!
AH!
OH!
COME ON, BABY!
OH, SWEET JESUS, YES!


THE FOLLOWING MONDAY MORNING...
WHERE *IS* EVERYBODY?
I MEAN... I MEAN... HAS THERE BEEN AN ATTACK OF THE PLAGUE AT GNOSIS COLLEGE?
TENTH ONE THIS MORNING, JACK.
JESUS, MAY...
GNOSIS ATHLETICS
WHERE IS EVERYONE *ELSE*, ZEITLIN?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I KEEP KOSHER, COACH.


HOW'S OUR HIGHER-DOSAGE TEST COMING ALONG?
THE KIDS HAVE AMAZING ENDURANCE.
THEY DESERVE WHAT THEY HAVE COMING TO THEM, AFTER THAT STUNT THEY PULLED ON CHILI NIGHT.
THANKS FOR THE HEAVY LIFTING, BY THE WAY, IGOR.
NO PROBLEM.
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE TAKING THEM, YOU KNOW, DOWN SOON?

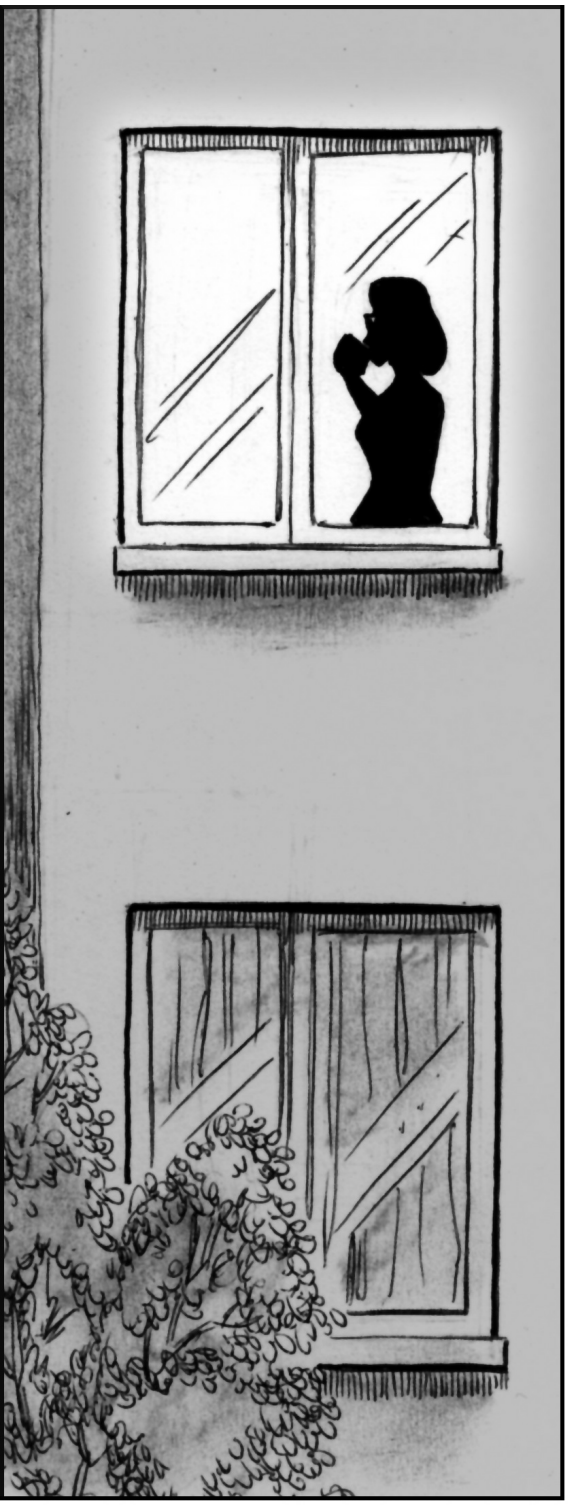

"WE SHOULD AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL THE DOPAMINE-ENHANCEMENT EFFECT WEARS OFF."
"'TILL THEN, LET THEM HAVE THEIR FUN."



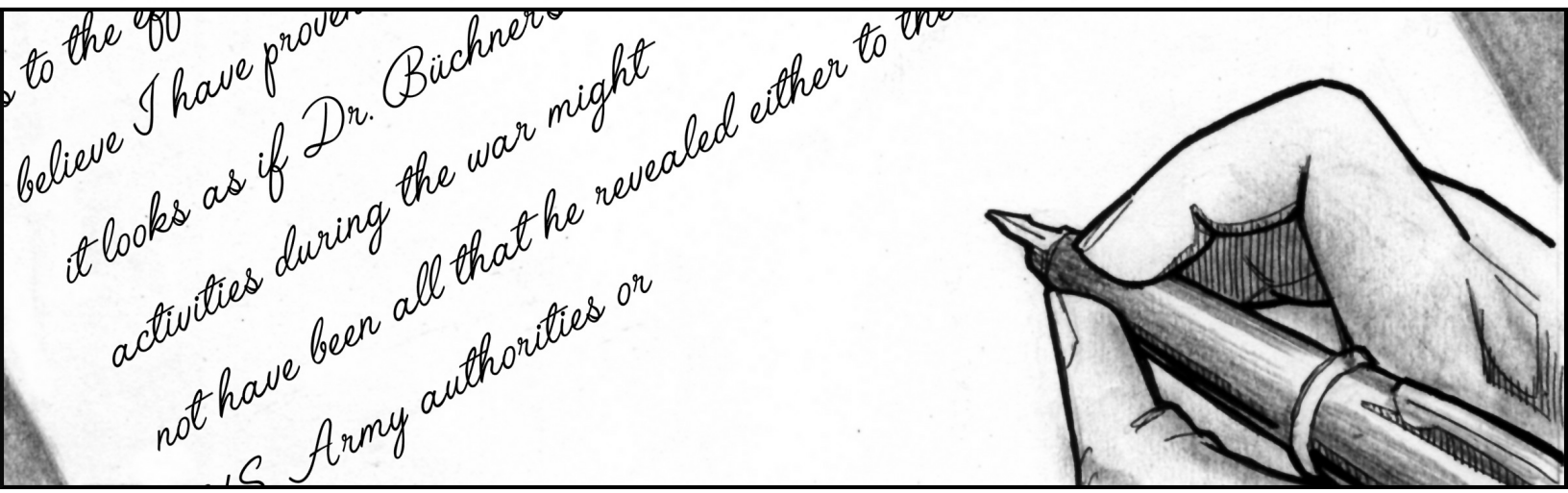

message received:
What on earth do you think was in the chili this year?





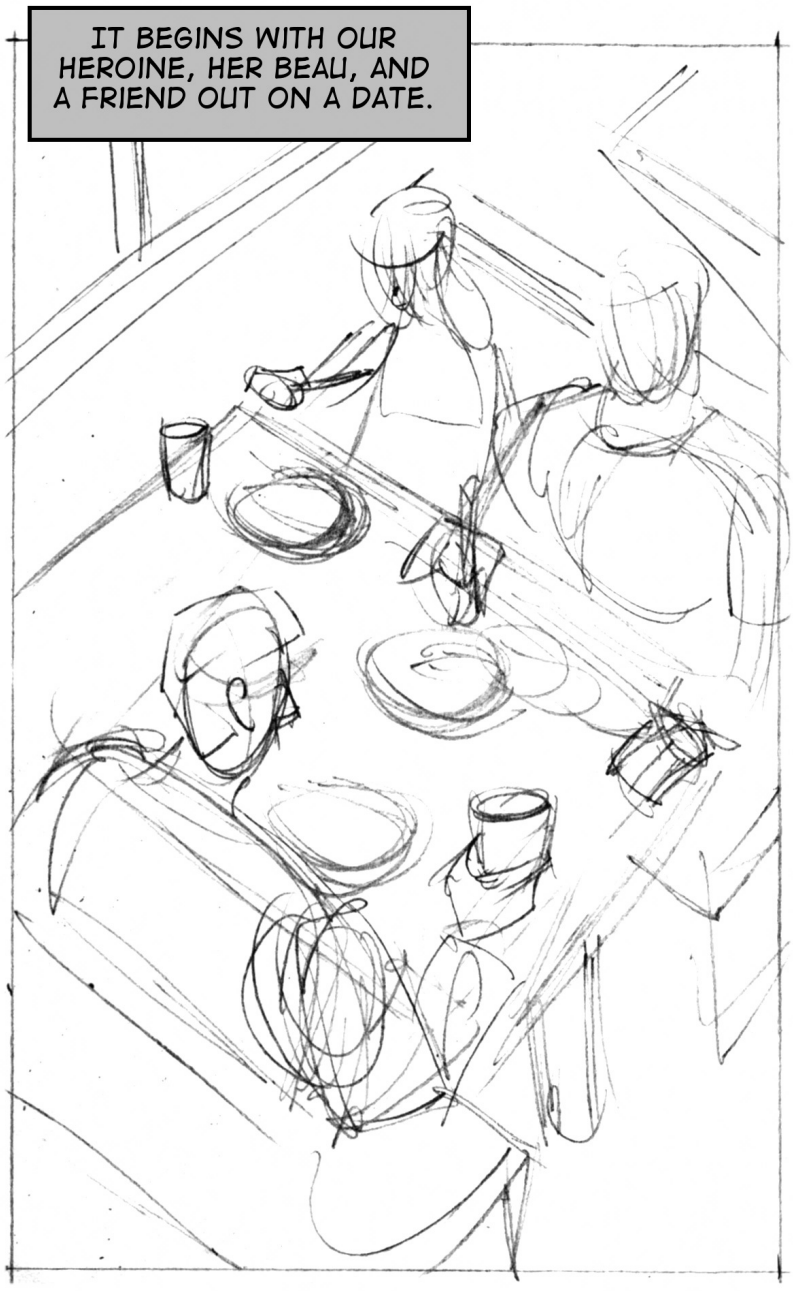





to the
believe I have
it looks as if Dr. Büchner
activities during the war might
not have been all that he revealed either to the
Army authorities or




TIME FOR ANOTHER OF TAYLOR'S TALES.

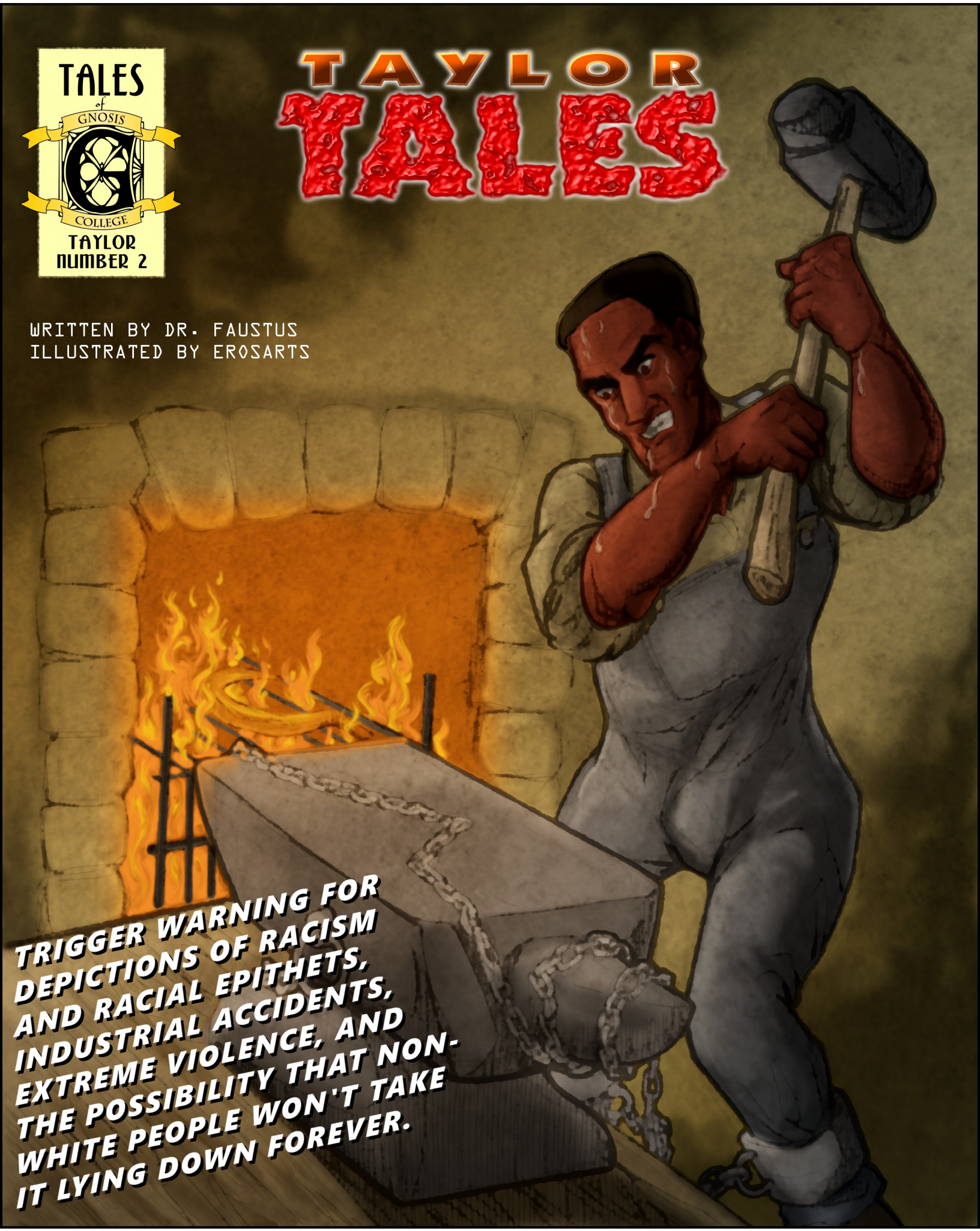

IT BEGINS WITH OUR HEROINE, HER BEAU, AND A FRIEND OUT ON A DATE.

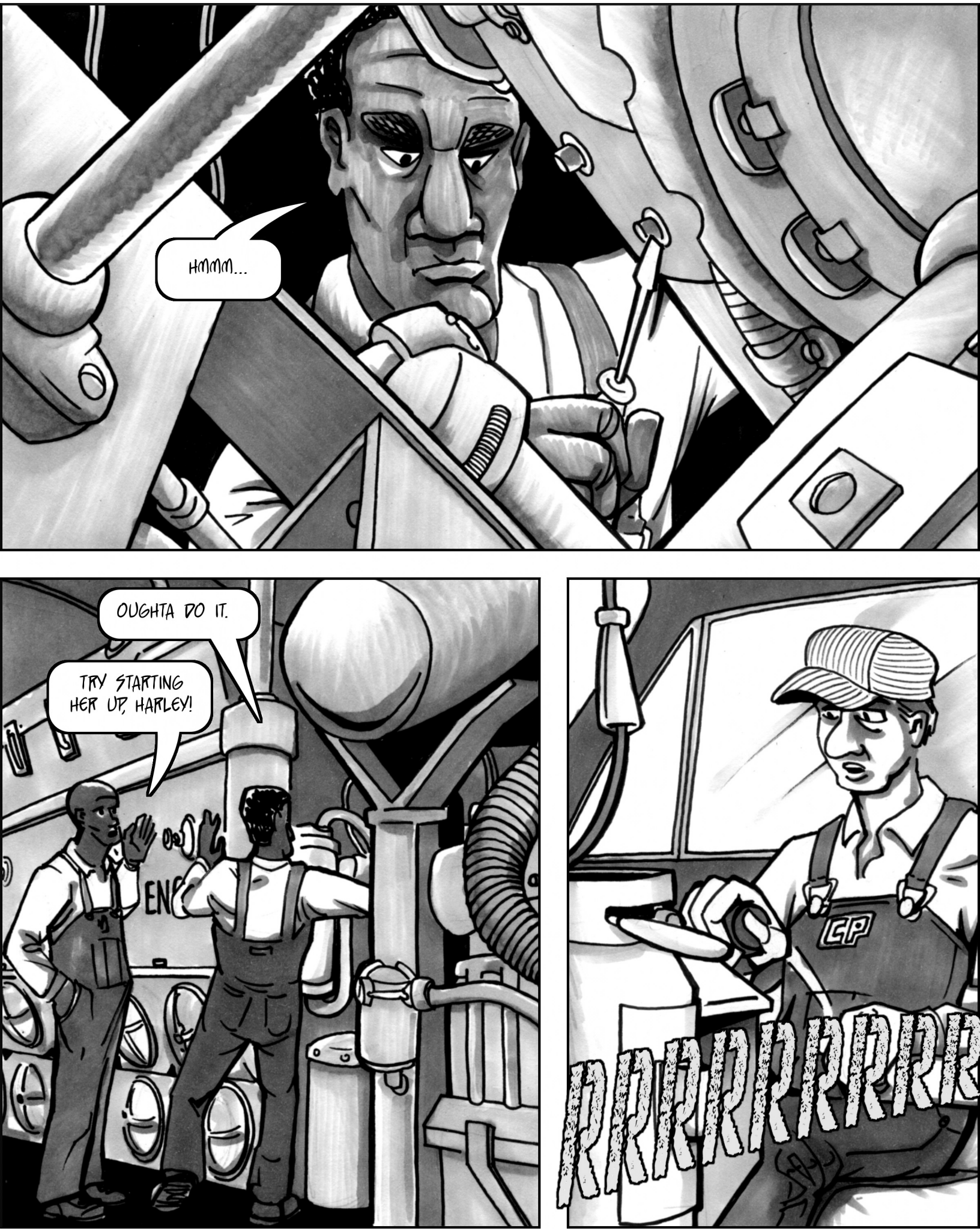

THINGS START OUT NICE.
THEY WON'T STAY THAT WAY.

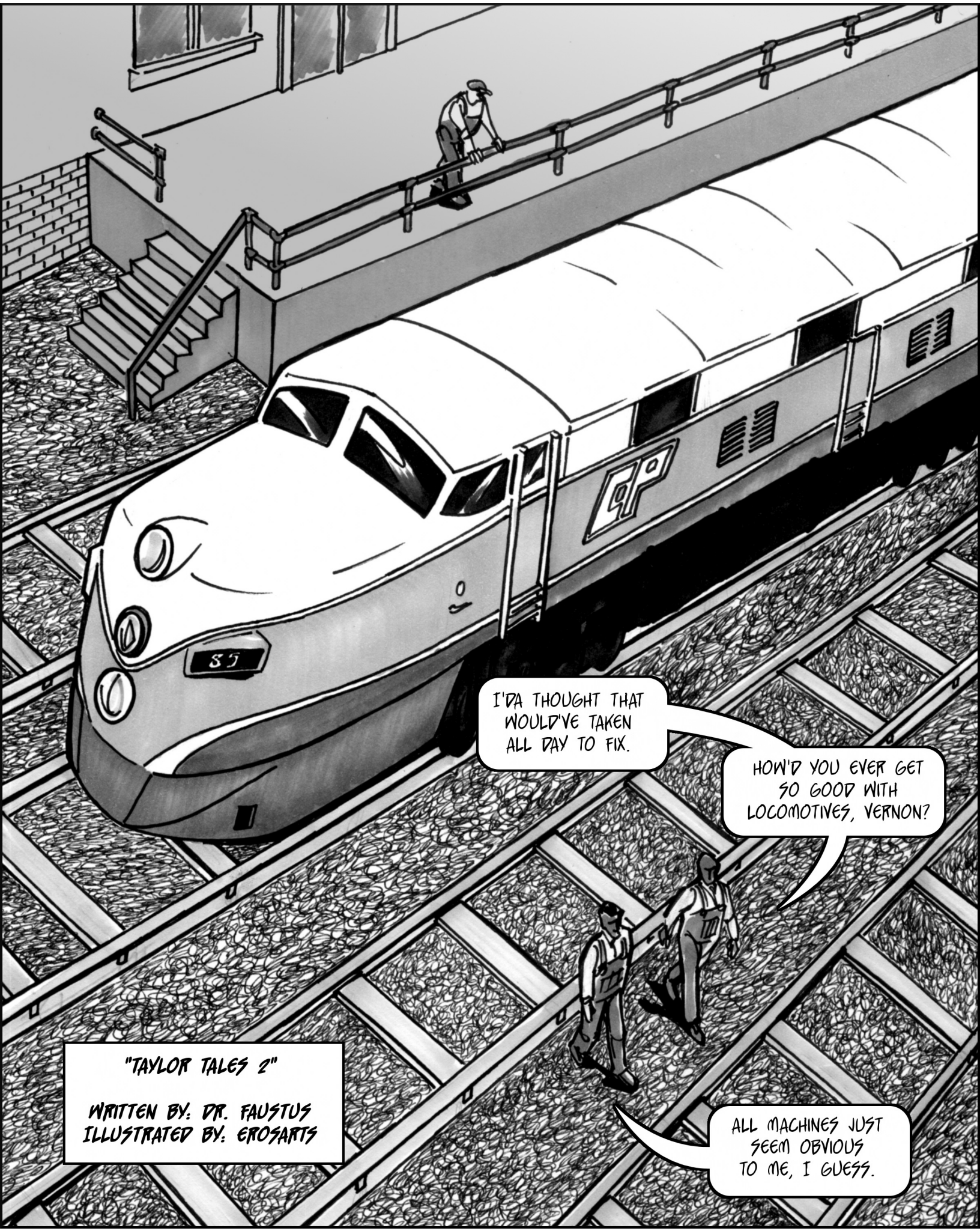
WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

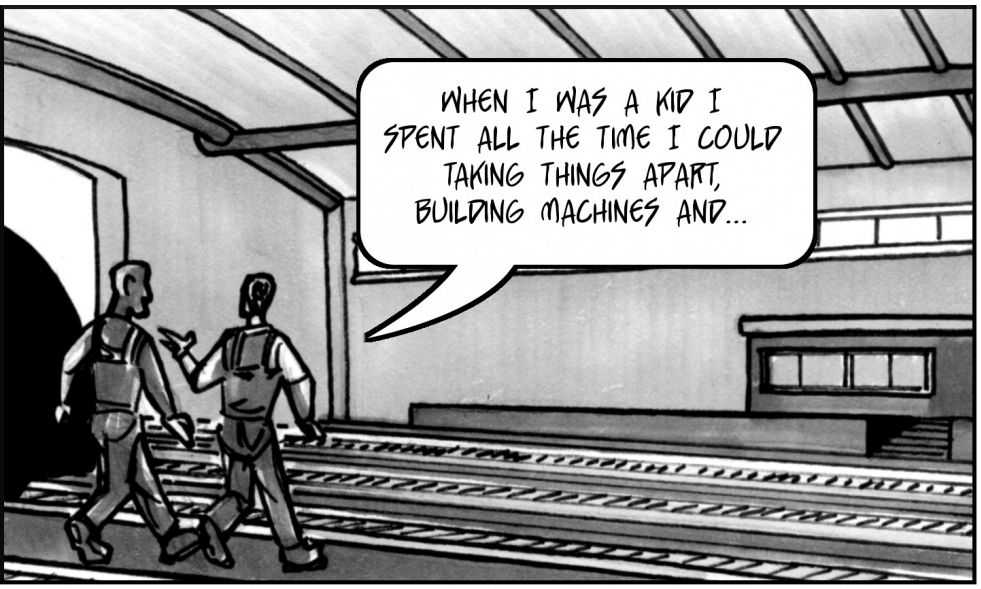


JESSICA JONES


TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
TAYLOR NUMBER 2
TAYLOR TALES
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS
TRIGGER WARNING FOR DEPICTIONS OF RACISM AND RACIAL EPITHETS, INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, EXTREME VIOLENCE, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT NON-WHITE PEOPLE WON'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN FOREVER.


HMMM...
OUGHTA DO IT.
TRY STARTING HER UP, HARLEY!
CP
RRRRRRRRRR

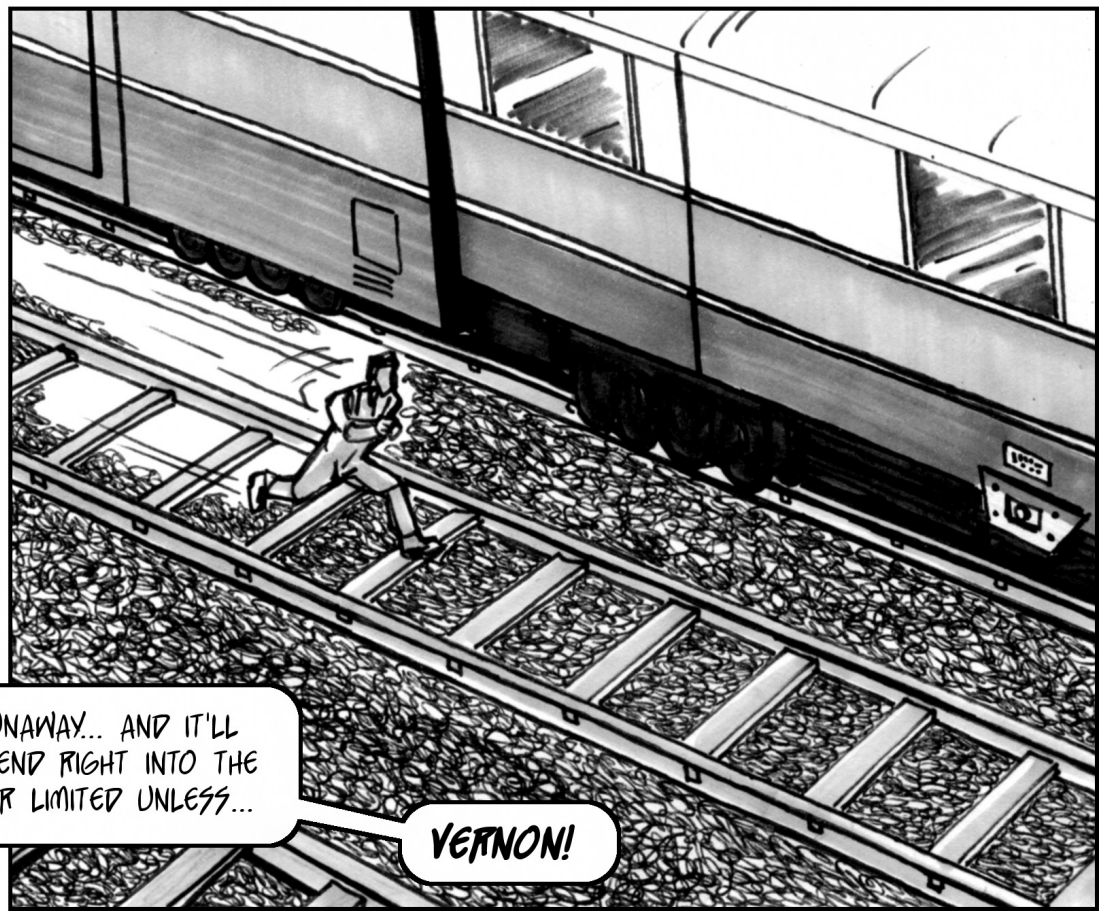

I'DA THOUGHT THAT WOULD'VE TAKEN ALL DAY TO FIX.
HOW'D YOU EVER GET SO GOOD WITH LOCOMOTIVES, VERNON?
ALL MACHINES JUST SEEM OBVIOUS TO ME, I GUESS.
"TAYLOR TALES 2"
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS

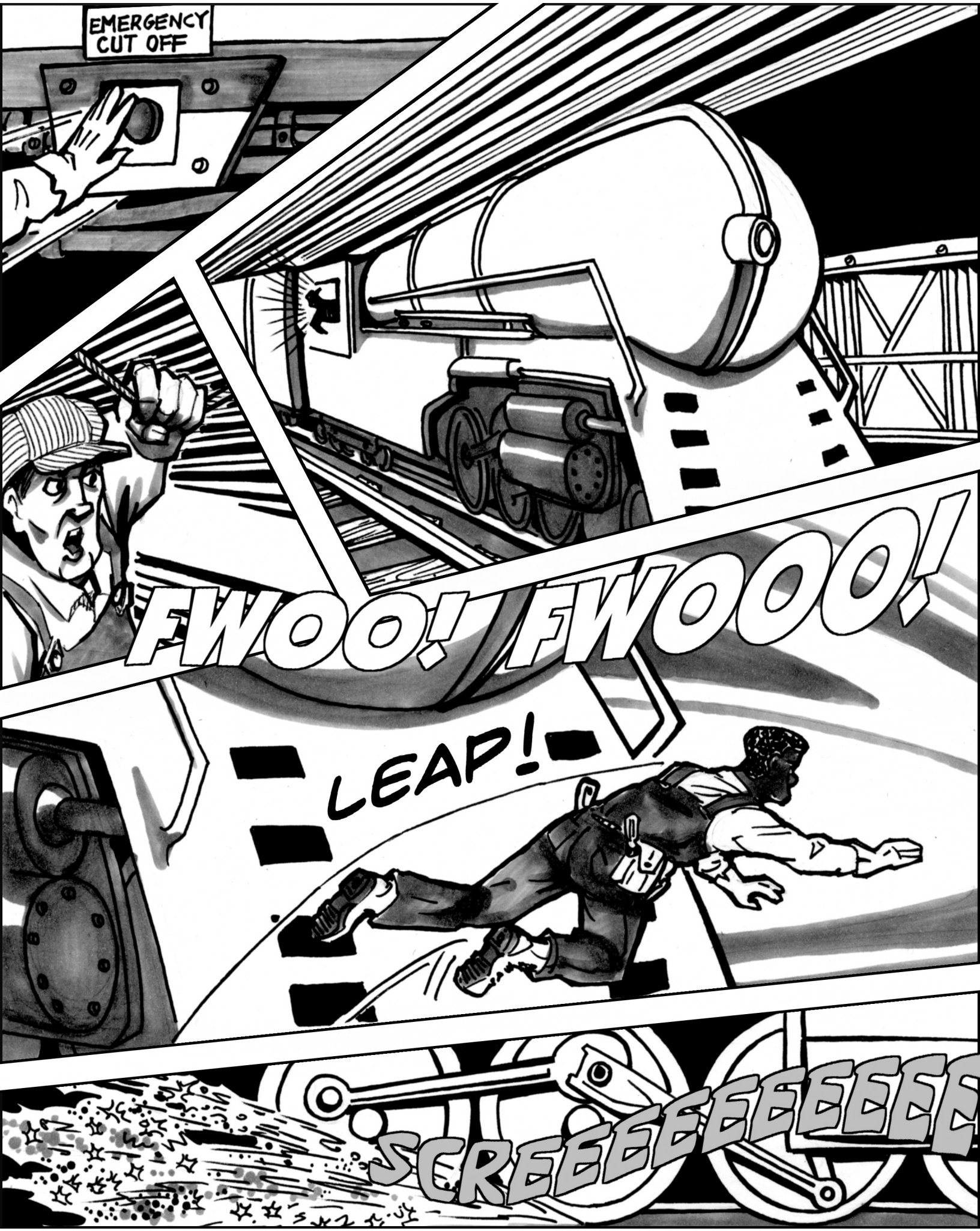

WHEN I WAS A KID I SPENT ALL THE TIME I COULD TAKING THINGS APART, BUILDING MACHINES AND...


WHOA!
GRAB!


SHIT! THANKS, MAN...


THAT SECTION WASN'T SCHEDULED...
NO FLAGS OUT... AND NOBODY IN THAT CAB...
A RUNAWAY... AND IT'LL HEAD-END RIGHT INTO THE DENVER LIMITED UNLESS...


VERNON!


EMERGENCY CUT OFF
FWOO! FWOOO!
LEAP!
SCREEEEEEEEEEE


VERNON...
JESUS...
CP


MANY PAINFUL MONTHS LATER...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. WEINSTEIN. WHY WON'T THE RAILROAD SETTLE?
THEIR CLAIM IS THAT YOU PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS, MR. JACKSON, AND SO THEY'RE NOT LIABLE FOR YOUR INJURIES.
IF I HADN'T STOPPED THAT RUNAWAY, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE DIED, AND THEY SAY THE ACCIDENT IS MY FAULT?
I'M SORRY MR. JACKSON. SOMETIMES THE LAW IS AN ASS.
A SMALL DISABILITY PENSION IS PROBABLY THE BEST WE CAN DO HERE.
WE WON'T MAKE IT ON THAT. YOU AND LIVONIA...
THE LORD WILL PROVIDE, VERNON.


"THEY SAY THE LORD HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES..."
"IT HELPS ALSO TO HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE WILLING TO 'LEND' YOU A FEW TOOLS."
"AND ALSO IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF 'JUNK' SITTING AROUND WAITING TO BE RE-USED."
"THE PATH TO UPLIFT IS THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE, MY DAD ALWAYS USED TO SAY."


"IT IS TIME TO RIGHT A LEGAL WRONG."


A1
SECURE
SO YOU WANT TO STOP AT CRAPPY'S AFTER WE MAKE THE RUN?
SURE. ANYTHING BEATS GOING HOME.
WHAM!
BRRRAZZZZZ!
WHAT THE...?
STOP THE CAR!
=COUGH= =COUGH=
=HACK= =WHEEZE=


EXTRA EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! MECHANICAL MAN ROBS CHICAGO PACIFIC RAILROAD PAYROLL!
PLEASANT PRAIRIE ARMORED CAR ROBBERY
TWO GUARDS HOSPITALIZED
PLEASANT PRAIRIE ARMORED CAR ROBBERY
TWO GUARDS HOSPITALIZED

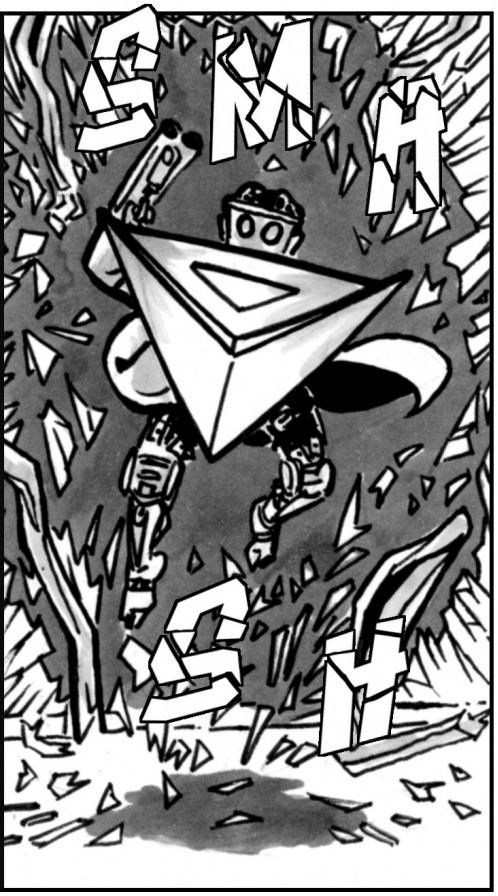

DIESEL CITY & SOUTHERN
IT'S A GOOD JOB, MAMA. I'M REPAIRING ELECTRIC MOTORS AS A BENCH MECHANIC. I CAN SEND ENOUGH HOME TO YOU AND LIVONIA AND GET BY MYSELF.
IT'S JUST THAT I WORRY ABOUT YOU IN THAT BIG CITY.
TROLLEY'S HERE.
BYE, BIG BROTHER.
I PROMISE TO WRITE AS SOON AS I'M THERE.


DO1 BANK
DO1 BANK
OKAY, NOW FILL'ER UP!
BETTER DO AS HE SAYS...

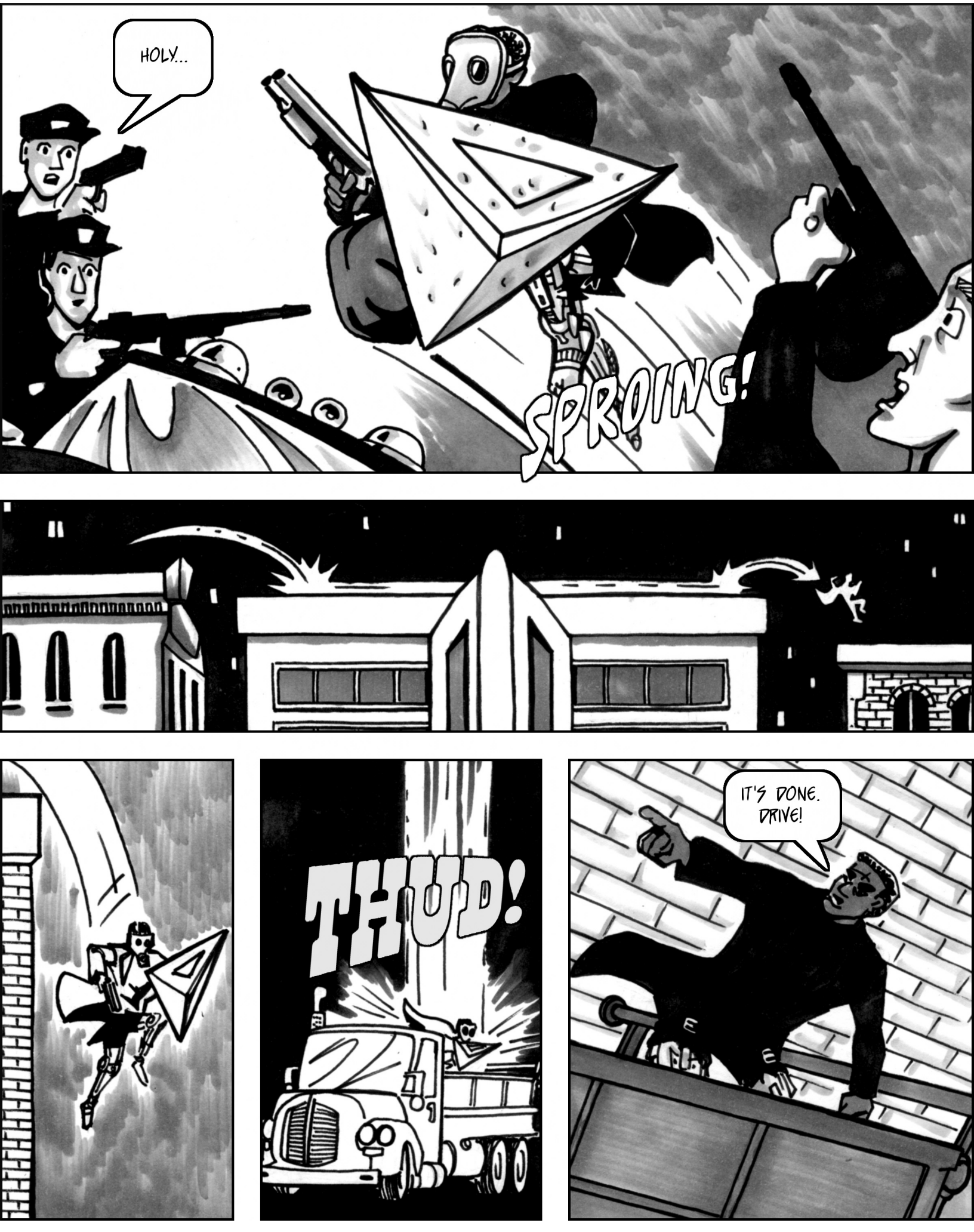

WE HAVE THE BANK SURROUNDED!
DCP


COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

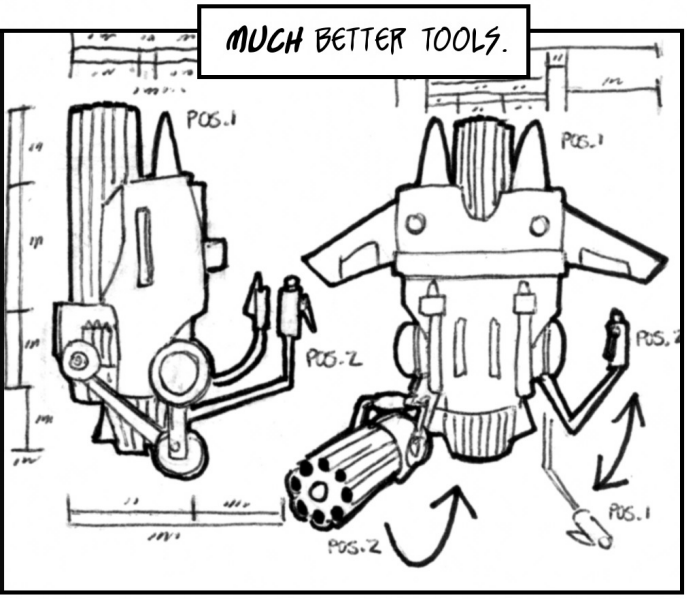

CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK


SMASH
SMASH


RAT
ATATATA
TATATATA
TATATA
TATATAT

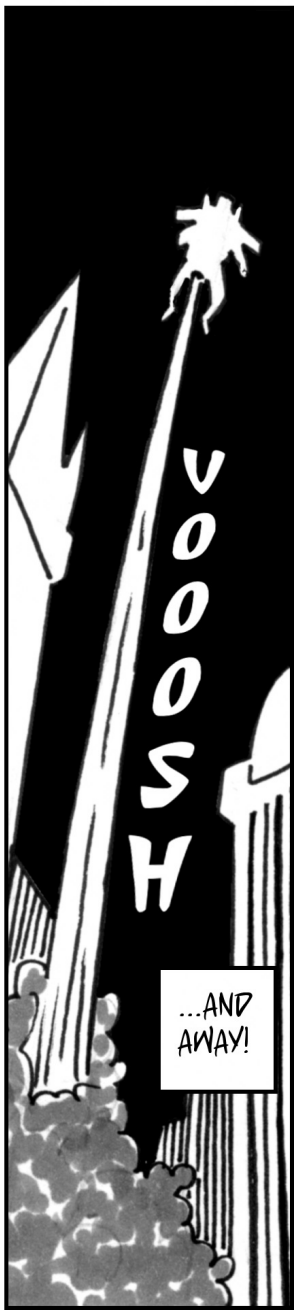

HOLY...
SPROING!
THUD!
IT'S DONE. DRIVE!


MORE MONEY...
...MEANS BETTER LIVES...
AND BETTER TOOLS.


MUCH BETTER TOOLS.
POS.1
POS.1
POS.2
POS.2
POS.1
POS.2

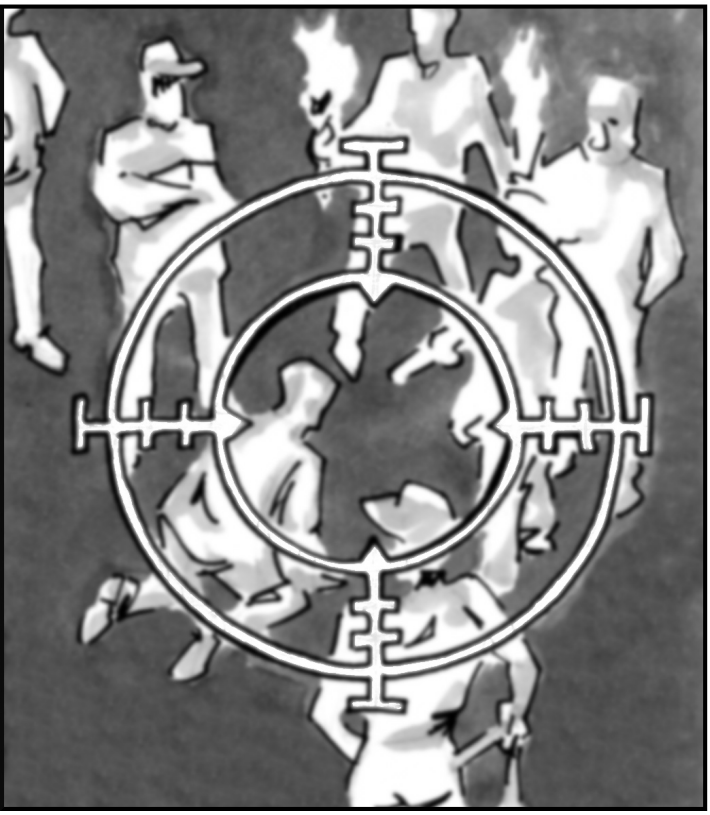

TIME TO SEE HOW GOOD I REALLY AM.


UP, UP...


VOOOSH
...AND AWAY!


I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO WALK ON MY OWN LEGS, BUT NOW I CAN FLY IN A WAY MEN UP TO NOW HAVE ONLY DREAMED OF FLYING.


THE FUCK... ?
CLIK-CLIK WHIRR---




FROOSH!


THIS IS THE END FOR YOU, BOY!
WHO THE FUCK IS THIS?
AN ANGRY BLACK MAN.
GUESS WE'LL BE ADDING YOU TO THE PARTY, THEN.
KACHUK!
BRAKKK


HOW DID YOU GET HERE, BROTHER? WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS COALHOUSE. WALTER COALHOUSE. I'M A DOCTOR.
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO AN AP-POINTMENT...
MY CAR BROKE DOWN IN THE TOWN WE'RE JUST OUTSIDE OF.
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS GET MY CAR FIXED AND MOVE ON.
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE, BOY?
JUST WAITING TO GET MY CAR FIXED.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, BOY?
THERE MIGHT BE SOME CIVILIZATION IN CITIES, BUT GET OUT IN THE COUNTRY, EVEN UP NORTH, AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE MISSISSIPPI.
I MEAN, I'M JUST WAITING TO GET MY CAR FIXED, SIR.
WELL, SEE THAT YOU DO AND GET OUT, 'CUZ THE SUN AIN'T NEVER GONE DOWN ON A LIVE NIGGER IN THIS HERE TOWN.

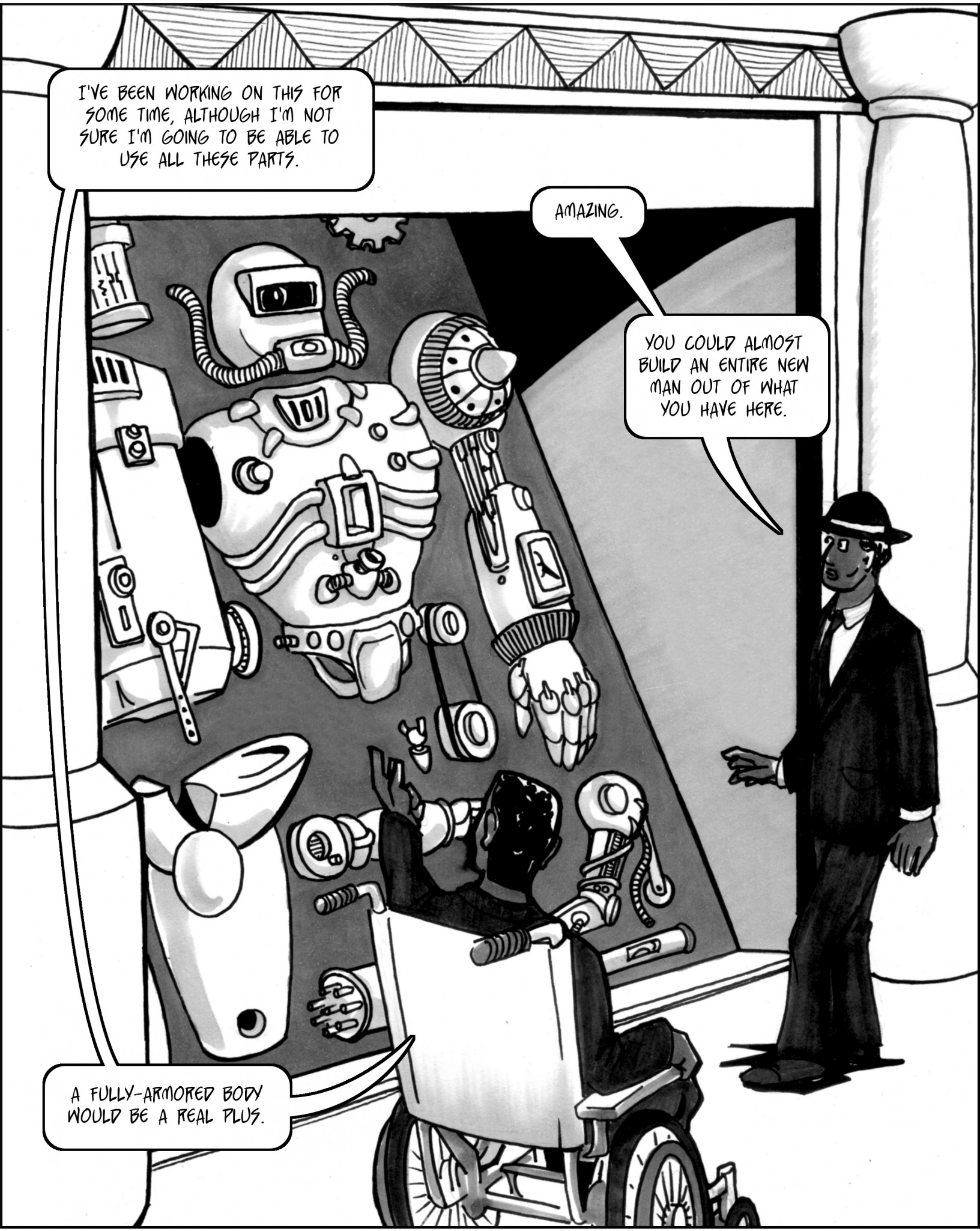

SHOULD HAVE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT. SHOULD HAVE JUST LEFT. BUT SOMETHING INSIDE ME JUST SNAPPED.
YOU KNOW, I GRADUATED SUMMA FROM HOWARD.
PERHAPS THIS HERE TOWN ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE LIKES OF ME.
PTUI!
AND SO HERE I AM.
WHO IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU?
LONG STORY. I SURE COULD FIND A PLACE FOR A GOOD DOCTOR.

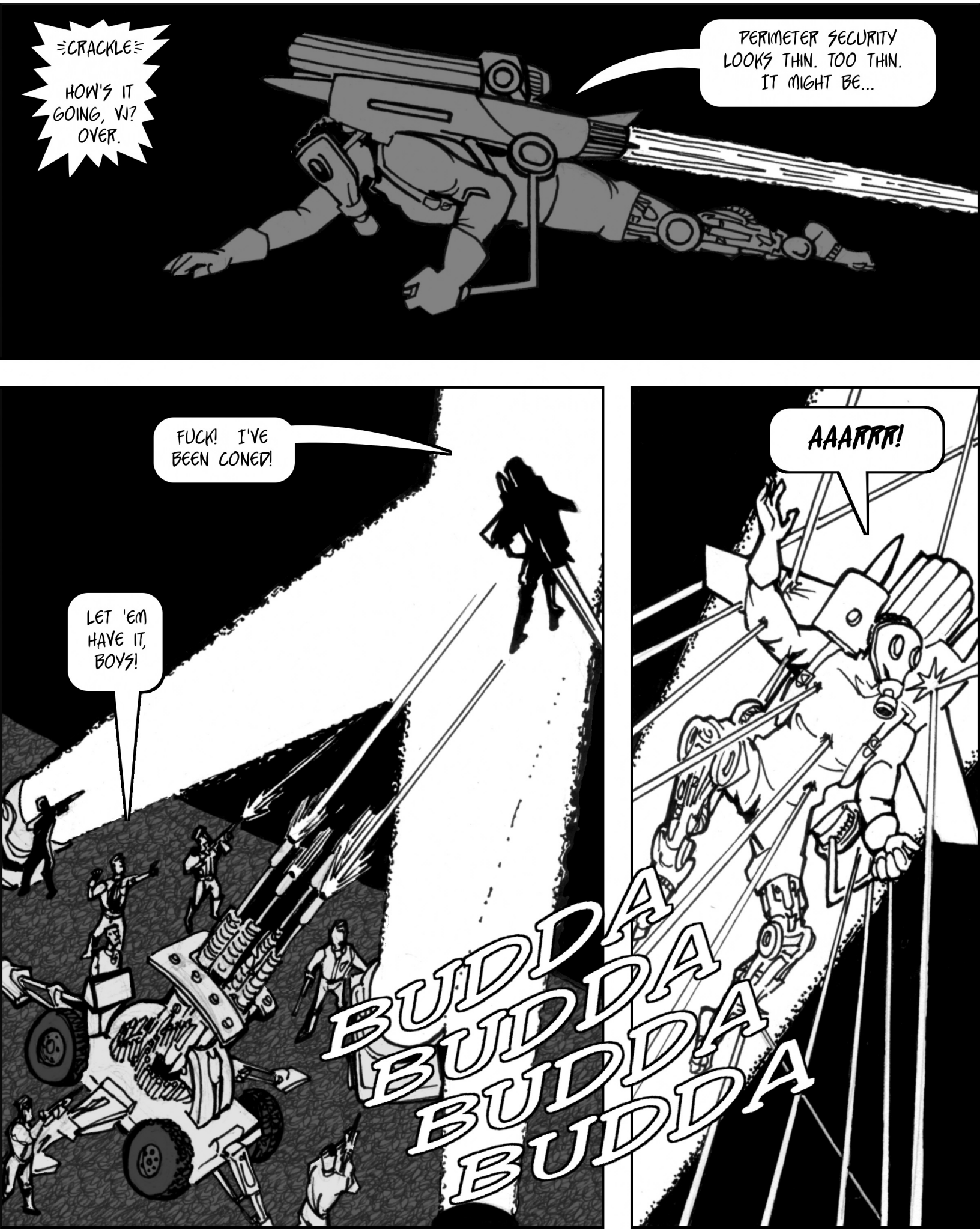

AN EXCELLENT HAUL, GENTLEMEN. WELL DONE.

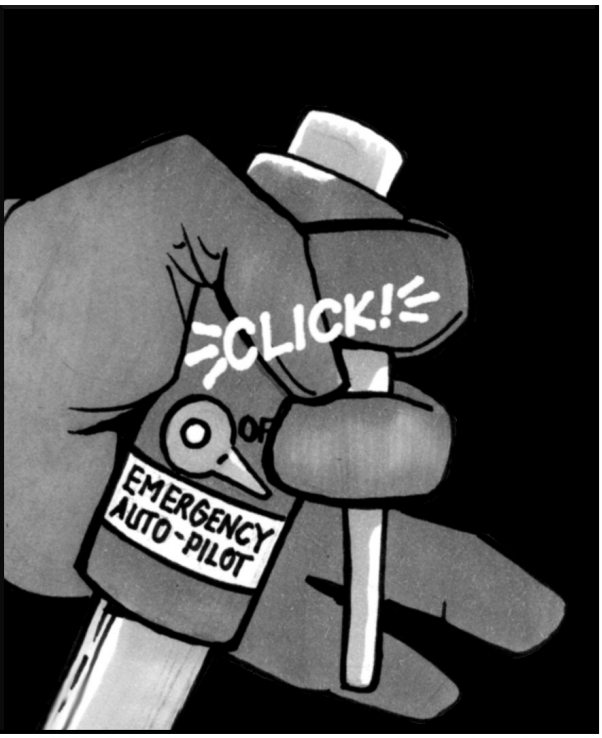

LEFTY, YOU KNOW PHILOMENA HILL, DOWN ON 48TH? SHE'S A WIDOW NOW. WITH SIX CHILDREN TO LOOK AFTER. MAKE SURE SHE'S LOOKED AFTER.
WILL DO, BOSS.
NO POINT IN STEALING IF YOU CAN'T ROBIN HOOD, RIGHT?


SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU, DR. COALHOUSE?
WELL, IT'S ALL JUST SO STRANGE.


I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT THAT I SHOULD BE A CREDIT TO MY RACE. THAT I SHOULD PLAY ALONG. THAT I SHOULD BE "TWICE AS GOOD."
AND NOW HERE I AM, PART OF A BAND OF MERRY MEN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY, BROTHER. IF YOU THINK YOU'D BE BETTER BACK AMONG THE STRIVERS...
NO. AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN OF THIS COUNTRY THERE'S NO TURNING BACK TO THAT.
WELL, GOOD THEN. I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
MECHANICAL MAN CONTINUES GANG TO FOIL POLICE, FBI


I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR SOME TIME, ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO USE ALL THESE PARTS.
AMAZING.
YOU COULD ALMOST BUILD AN ENTIRE NEW MAN OUT OF WHAT YOU HAVE HERE.
A FULLY-ARMORED BODY WOULD BE A REAL PLUS.


=CRACKLE=
HOW'S IT GOING, VJ? OVER.
PERIMETER SECURITY LOOKS THIN. TOO THIN. IT MIGHT BE...
FUCK! I'VE BEEN CONED!
LET 'EM HAVE IT, BOYS!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
AAARRR!

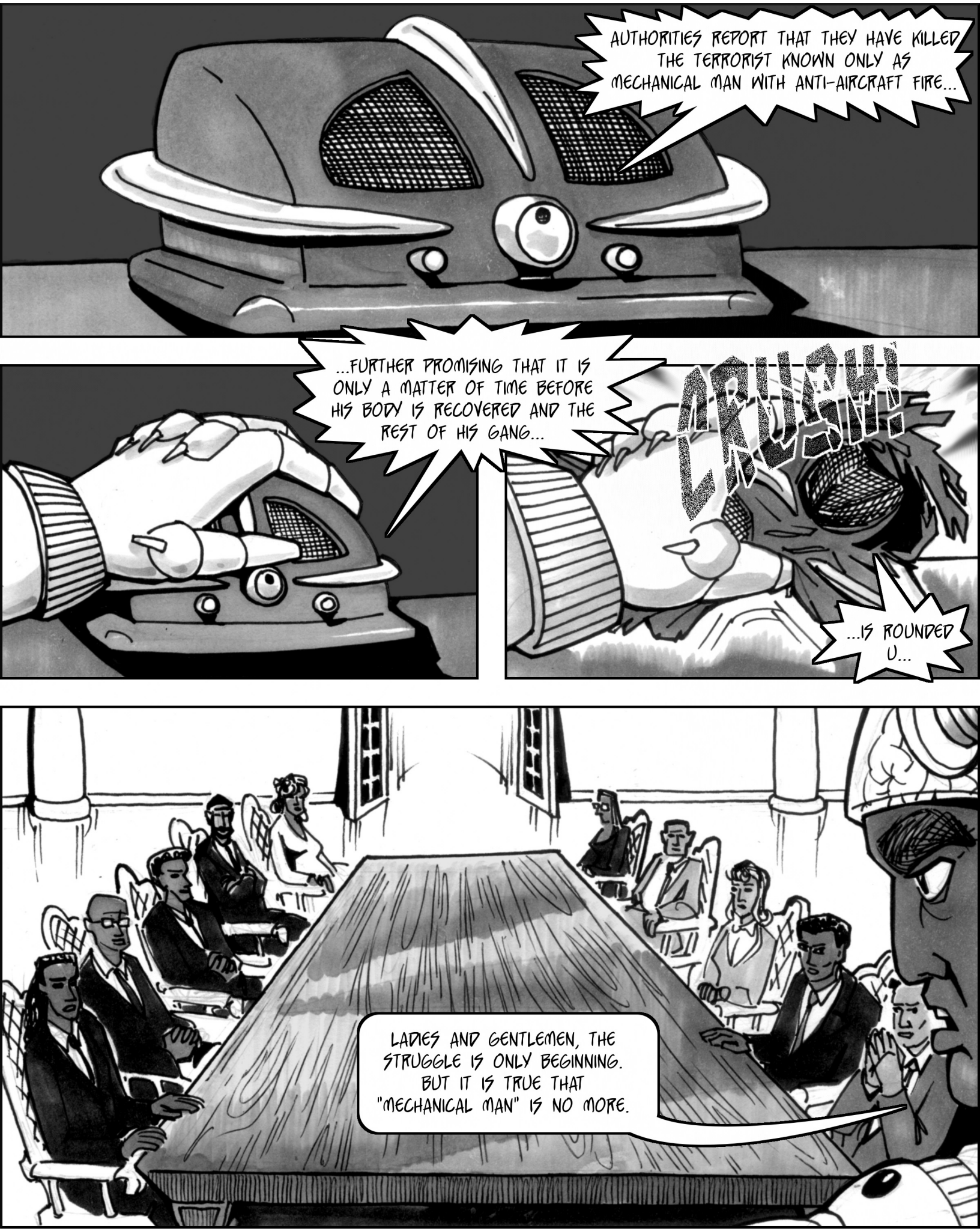

CLICK!
EMERGENCY
AUTO-PILOT




AW, VERNON. JESUS...
NO TIME FOR THAT. HELP ME GET HIM DOWNSTAIRS.


I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM.


YOU AWAKE, VERNON?
=GROAN=
YOUR REACTIONS ARE GOOD.
WHAT IS THIS?
YOU WERE PRETTY BADLY TORN UP. I HAD TO INSTALL YOUR PROSTHETICS ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
BUT WHY THIS... THING.
MANY OF YOUR ORGANS ARE MECHANICAL NOW, WHICH MEANS WE NEEDED SYSTEMS TO KEEP YOUR BRAIN FROM OVERHEATING.
I... I DON'T KNOW...
YOU NOW HAVE STRENGTH, SPEED, AND DURABILITY FAR BEYOND ORDINARY HUMAN.
THINK ABOUT HOW *THAT* AIDS THE STRUGGLE, BROTHER.


AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT THEY HAVE KILLED THE TERRORIST KNOWN ONLY AS MECHANICAL MAN WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE...
...FURTHER PROMISING THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HIS BODY IS RECOVERED AND THE REST OF HIS GANG...
CRUSH
...IS ROUNDED U...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STRUGGLE IS ONLY BEGINNING. BUT IT IS TRUE THAT "MECHANICAL MAN" IS NO MORE.


HENCEFORTH I'LL BE KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS THE BLACK ENGINE.
MAY OUR ENEMIES TREMBLE IN FEAR.
BE


HEY LADY!
YOU CHINEE?

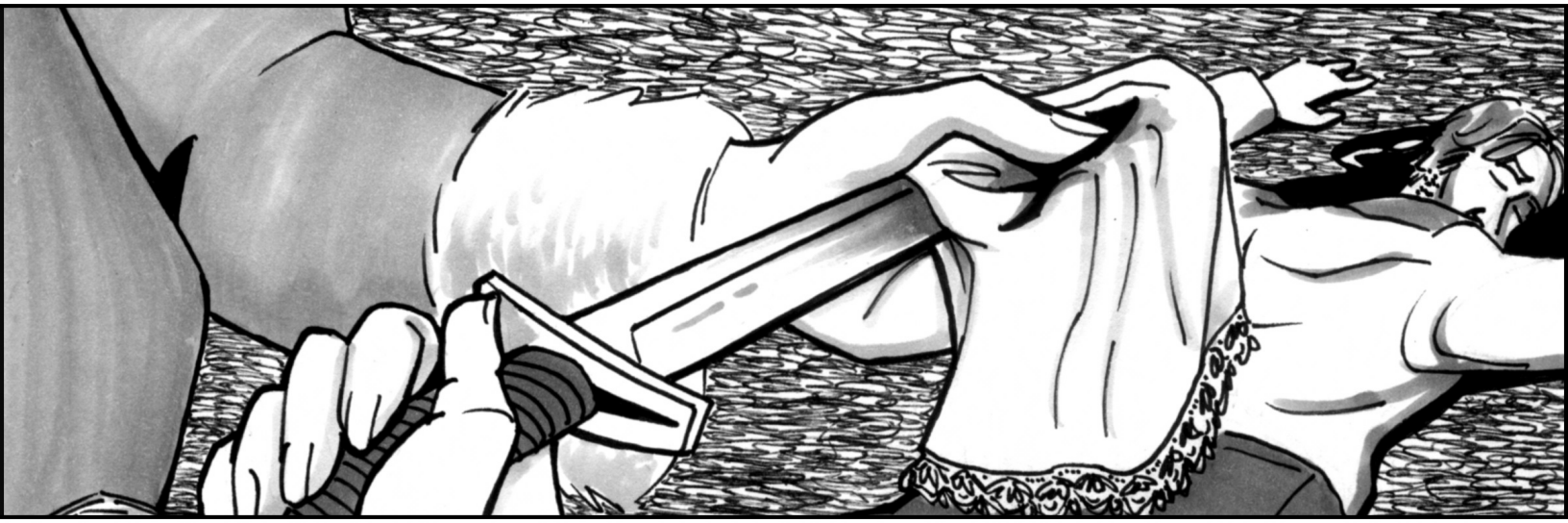

YOU SUCKEE?
YOU FUCKEE?
HOW
MUCHEE?


AIEEE!
OH...
SHIT...

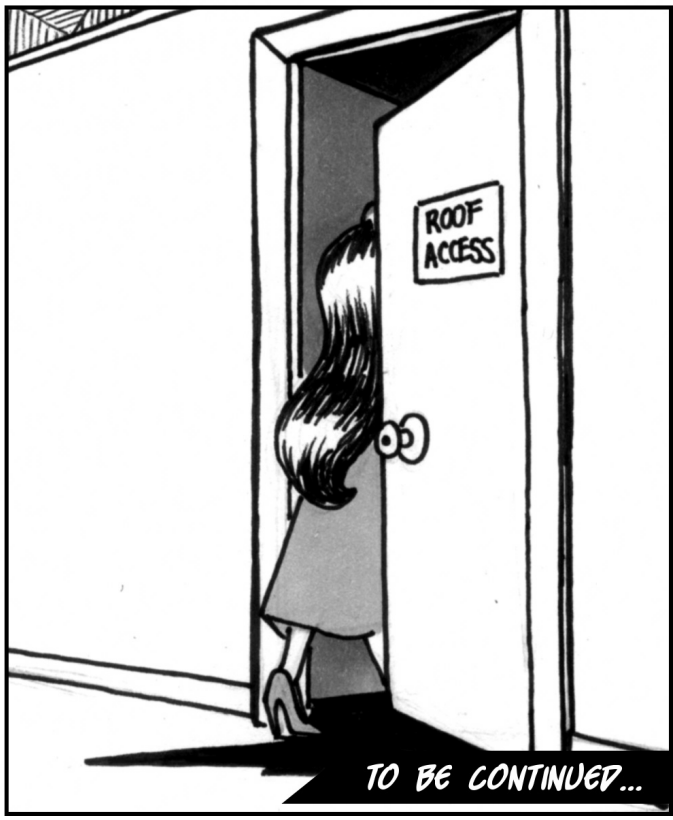


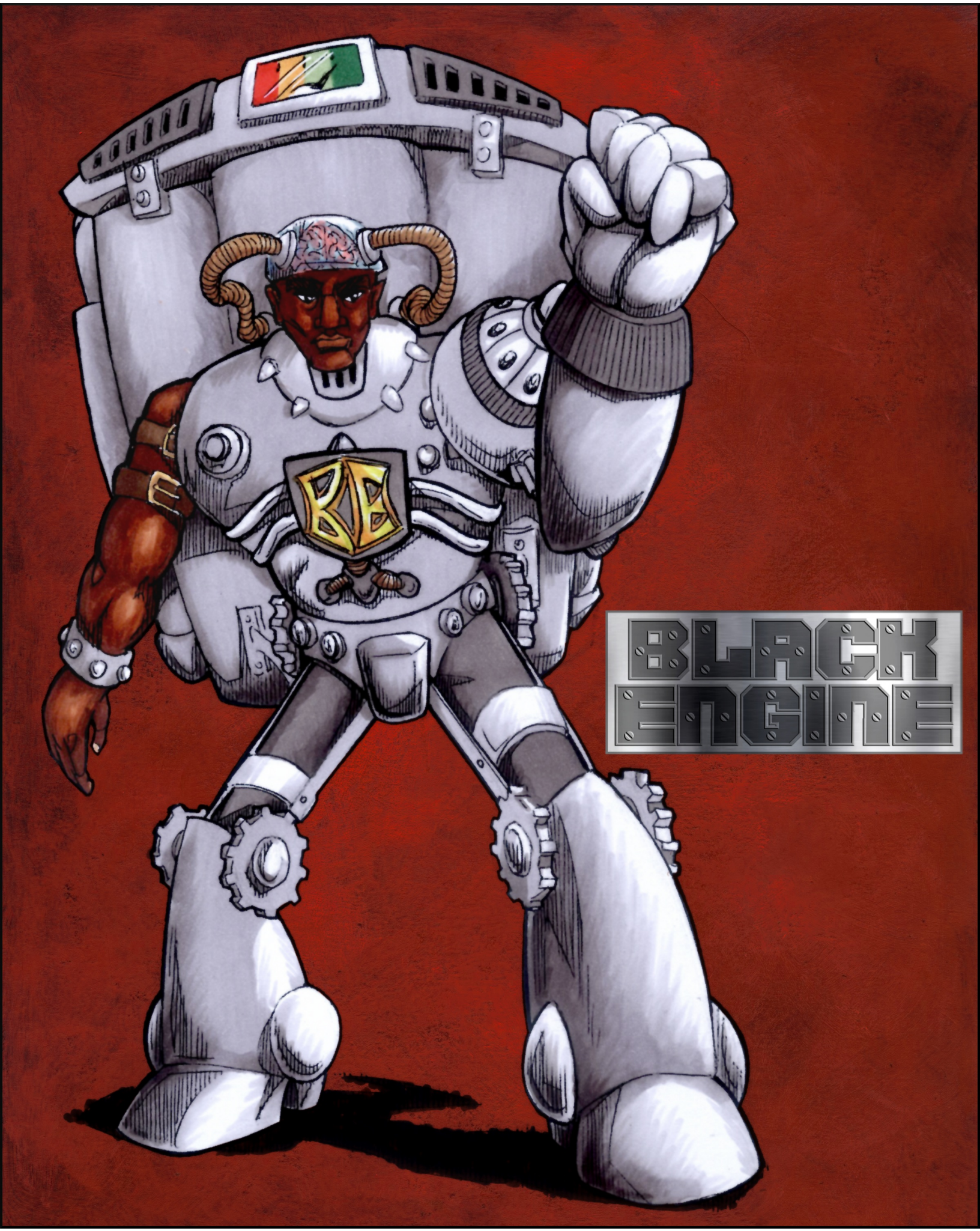

SHHHH


UNK!




1

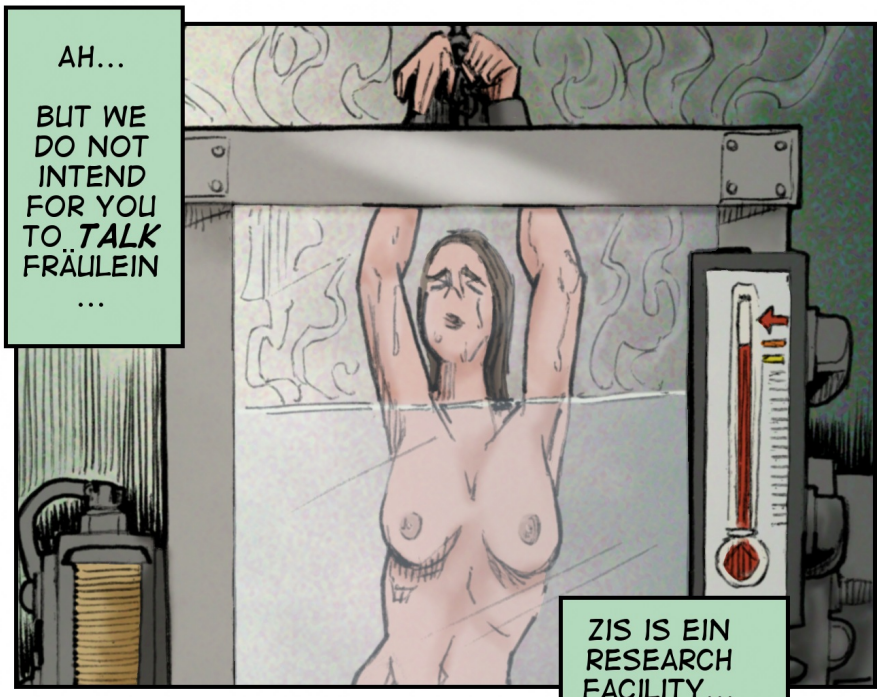

ROOF ACCESS
TO BE CONTINUED...

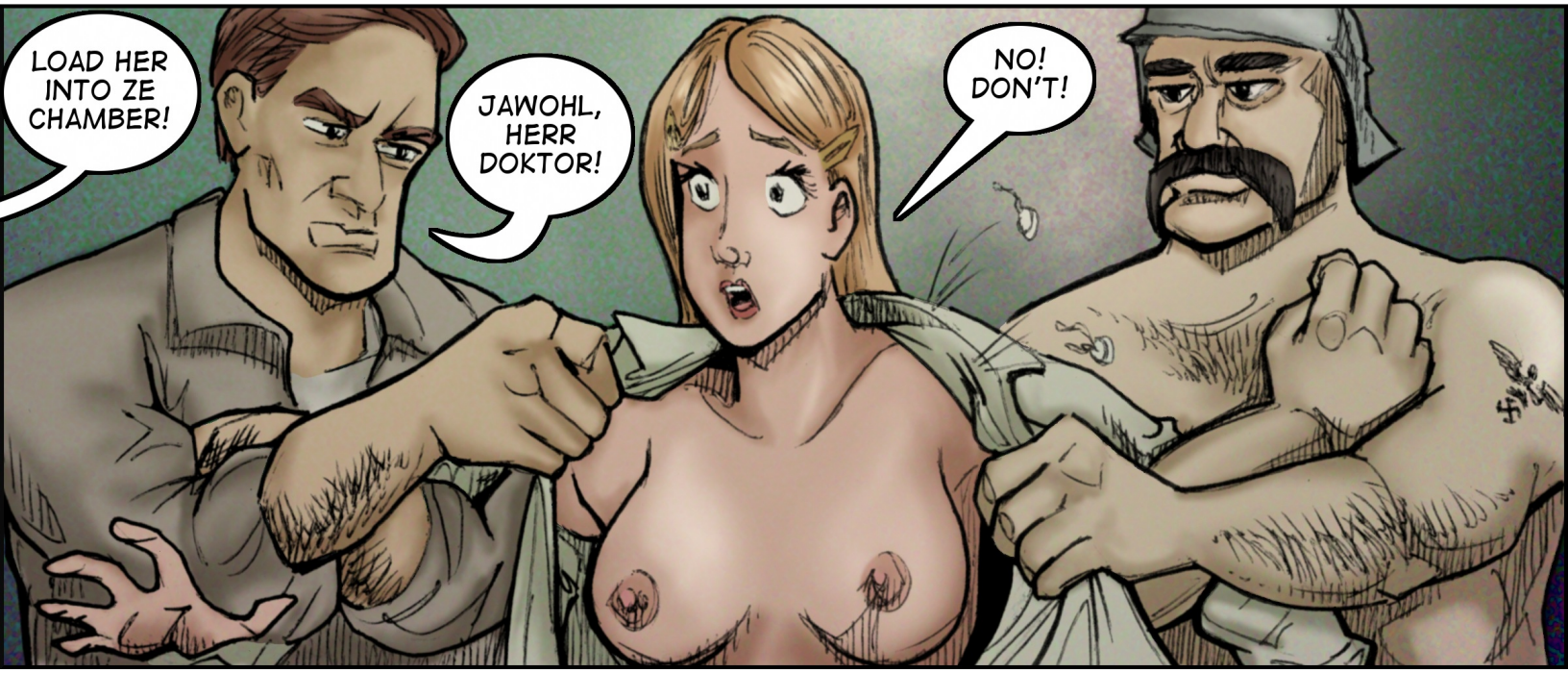

BLACK
ENGINE


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER VI
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


ZO! EIN ALLIED AGENT! CAPTURED BY ZE GESTAPO UND TURNED OVER TO US. EXCELLENT!


I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO, YOU FIEND! I'LL NEVER TALK!


AH... BUT WE DO NOT INTEND FOR YOU TO *TALK* FRÄULEIN ...
ZIS IS EIN RESEARCH FACILITY...


LOAD HER INTO ZE CHAMBER!
JAWOHL, HERR DOKTOR!
NO! DON'T!

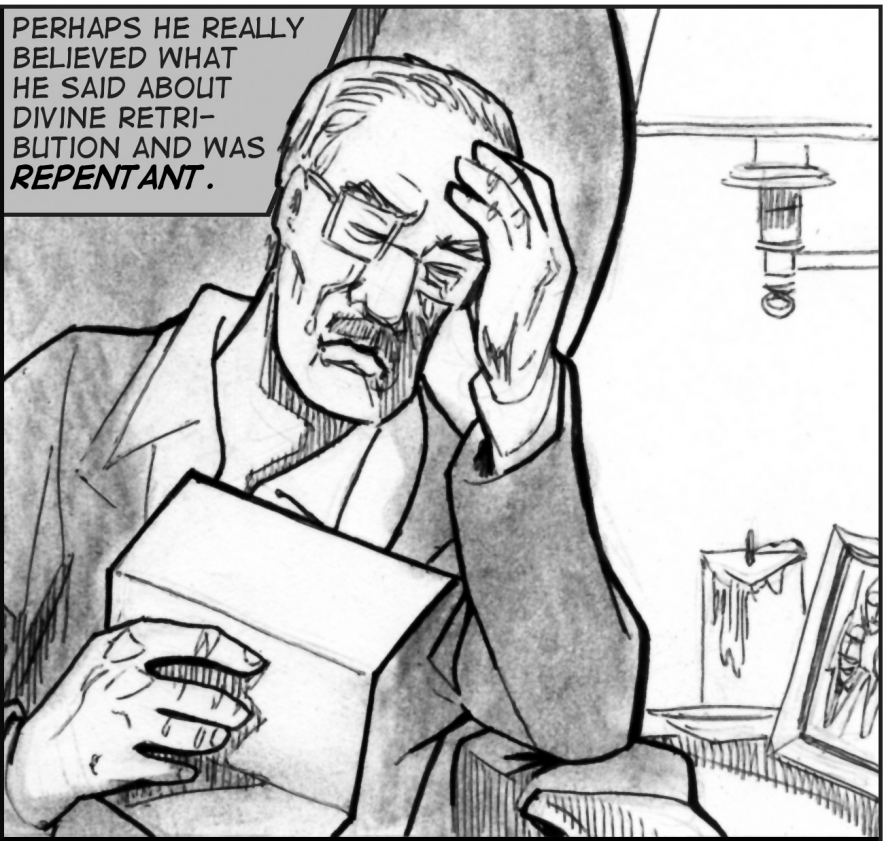

YOU VILL SERVE ZE GREATER GERMAN REICH WHETHER YOU ARE VILLING OR NOT!

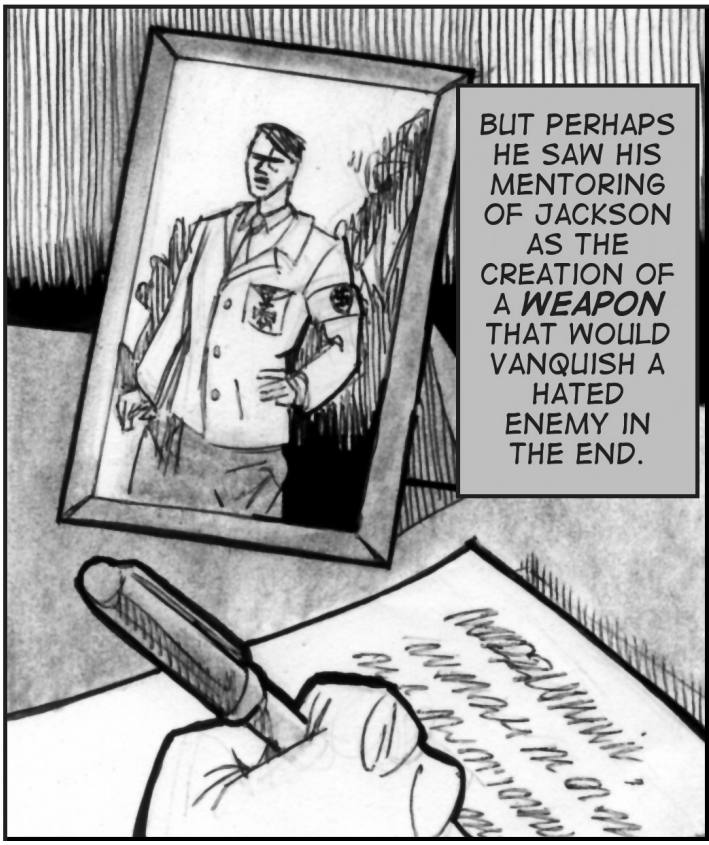

RRRRRRR
HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU, STURMBANNFÜHRER...
...ZAT ZIS "FORCED ORGASM BOMB" WILL WORK?
IT CANNOT FAIL, HERR REICHSFÜHRER.
BOOM!
HA HA! MOSCOW, LONDON, NEW YORK! ALL TO BE REDUCED TO ASHES BY THE POWER OF ARYAN SCIENCE!


SHIT...
I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL SINCE I GOT KARIN'S LAST LETTER.
THE RUSSIAN WIDOW OF ONE OF THOSE COLLEAGUES OF BÜCHNER SNAPPED UP BY THE NKVD REMEMBERED CERTAIN *STORIES*.
THEY WERE WORKING ON *MIND-CONTROL* DRUGS. AND THEY WERE PERFORMING HUMAN EXPERIMENTS ON UNWILLING SUBJECTS.
SMALL WONDER THE SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED.


PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED. HALF OF ALL MALE GERMAN PHYSICIANS JOINED THE NAZI PARTY. AND 7% JOINED THE SS.*
*TRUE! SEE NIKOLAUS WACHSMANN, KL: A HISTORY OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS, P. 441.


BUT IF HE WAS SUCH A NAZI, WHY WAS HE SO KIND AND SUPPORTIVE TOWARD VERNON JACKSON, WHOM HE SHOULD HAVE SEEN AS A RACIAL INFERIOR?

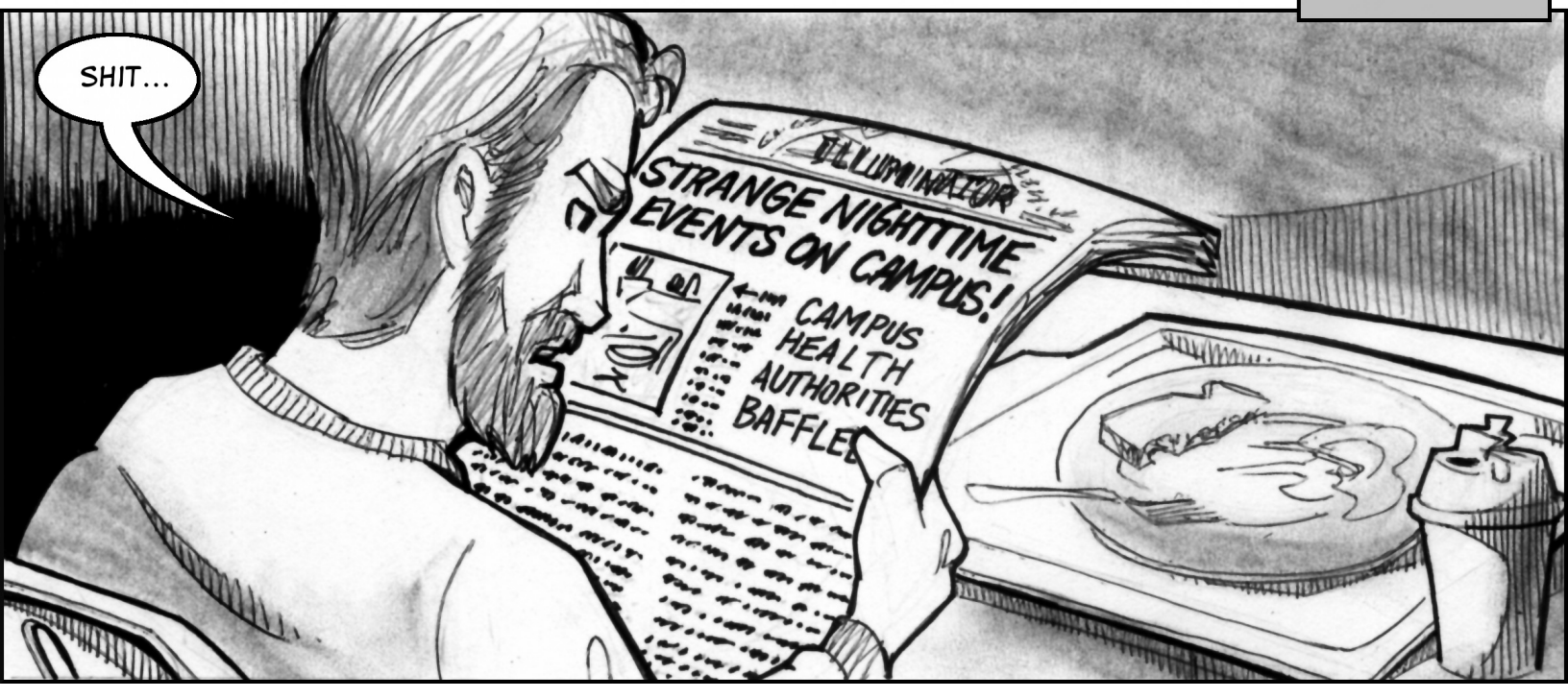

PERHAPS HE REALLY BELIEVED WHAT HE SAID ABOUT DIVINE RETRI-BUTION AND WAS ***REPENTANT***.


BUT PERHAPS HE SAW HIS MENTORING OF JACKSON AS THE CREATION OF A ***WEAPON*** THAT WOULD VANQUISH A HATED ENEMY IN THE END.


AND WHAT ABOUT JACKSON? WAS HE BEING PLAYED?
OR WAS HE *PLAYING ALONG?*


I NEED TO ASK KARIN IF SHE CAN FIND OUT MORE.


I HOPE SHE LIKES MY LATEST CREATIVE ENDEAVOR.
IT'S SO LATE IT'S EARLY. THEY SHOULD BE SERVING BREAKFAST AT THE UNION.

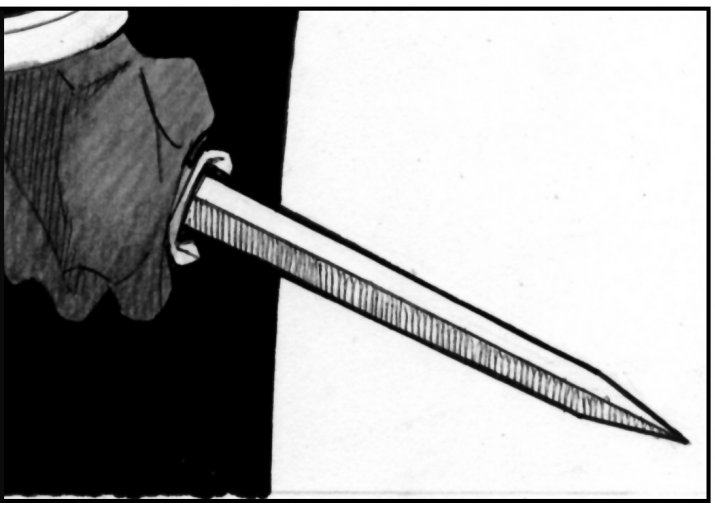

SHIT...
STRANGE NIGHTTIME EVENTS ON CAMPUS!
CAMPUS HEALTH AUTHORITIES BAFFLED


THY ROD AND THY STAFF... THEY COMFORT ME...


IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TAYLOR, BUT WHY THE URGENCY?
R. WAITE
PROFESSOR WAITE, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PHARMACOLOGY?
WELL, I AM A MEDICAL DOCTOR IN ADDITION TO... YOU'RE NOT IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE WITH DRUGS, ARE YOU TAYLOR?
I'M NOT SURE... PERHAPS YOU COULD LOOK AT THIS?
WEIRD... VERY STRANGE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S LIKE THE WORK OF A GENIUS THAT GOT...BROKEN SOMEHOW...
AS IF SOMEONE WERE WRITING A BRILLIANT ANALYSIS OF KANT'S THIRD CRITIQUE...
...THAT SUDDENLY VEERS OFF INTO SOLECISMS AND SPELLING ERRORS.




517

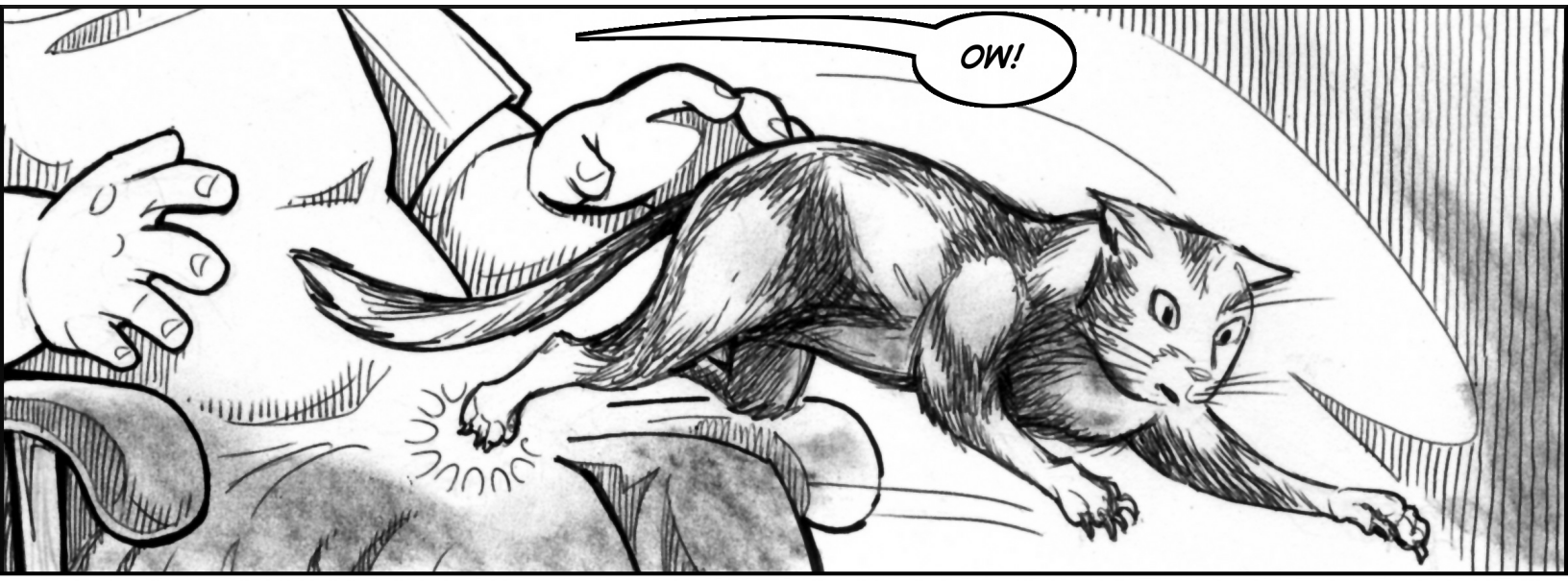



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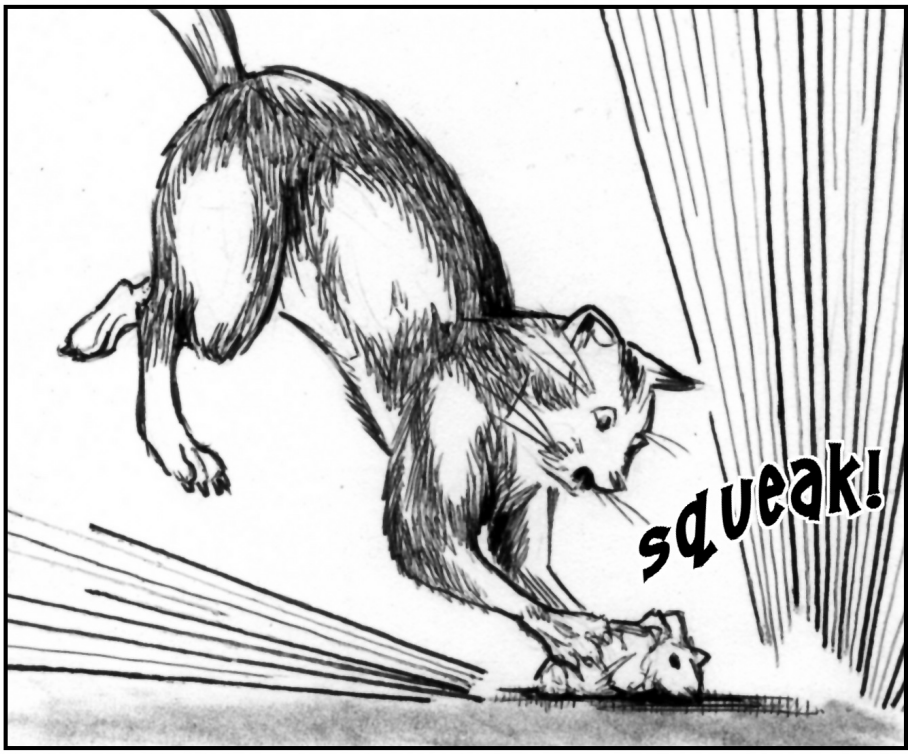

...REPORT OF A SHOOTING AT THE UNION HOTEL. ALL UNITS RESPOND...
UNION HOTEL
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH!
517


IT'S LIKE THE OLD STUFF IS JUST BORING NOW.
YEAH.


SO WHAT DOES THIS ONE DO?
WATCH.
THIS ONE CAN BE ADMINISTERED ORALLY.
NOW FOR A CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT...
PURRRR

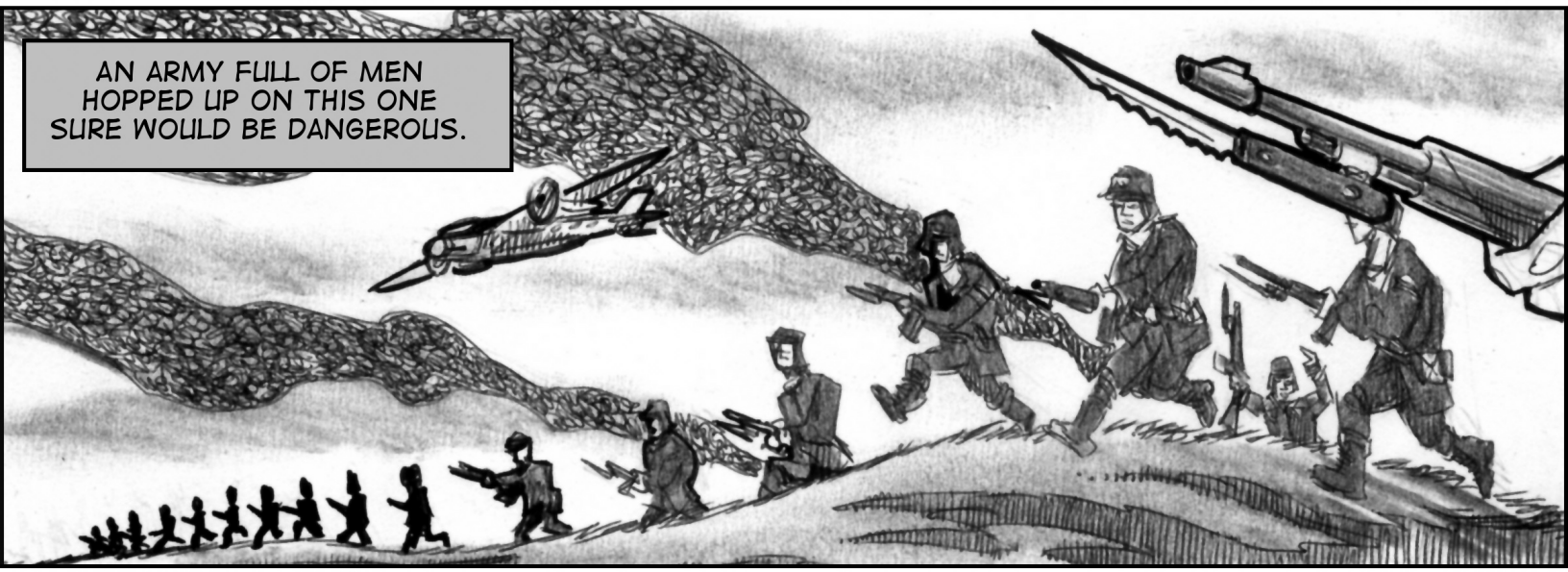

OW!



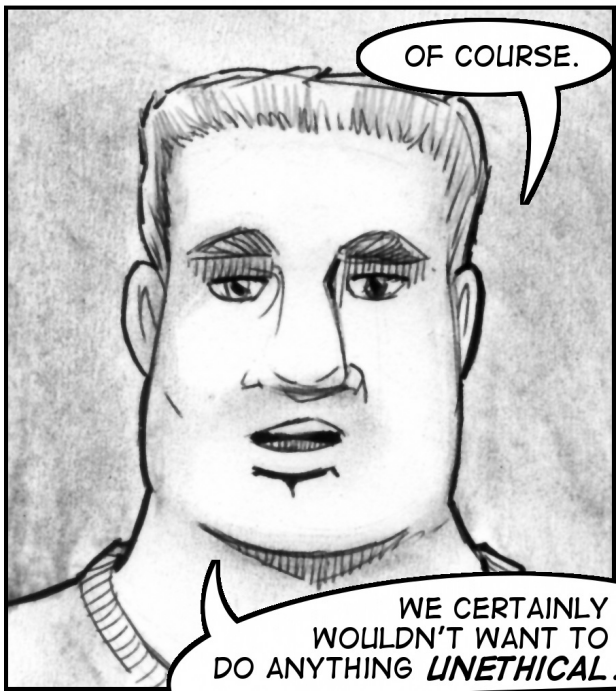

squeak!

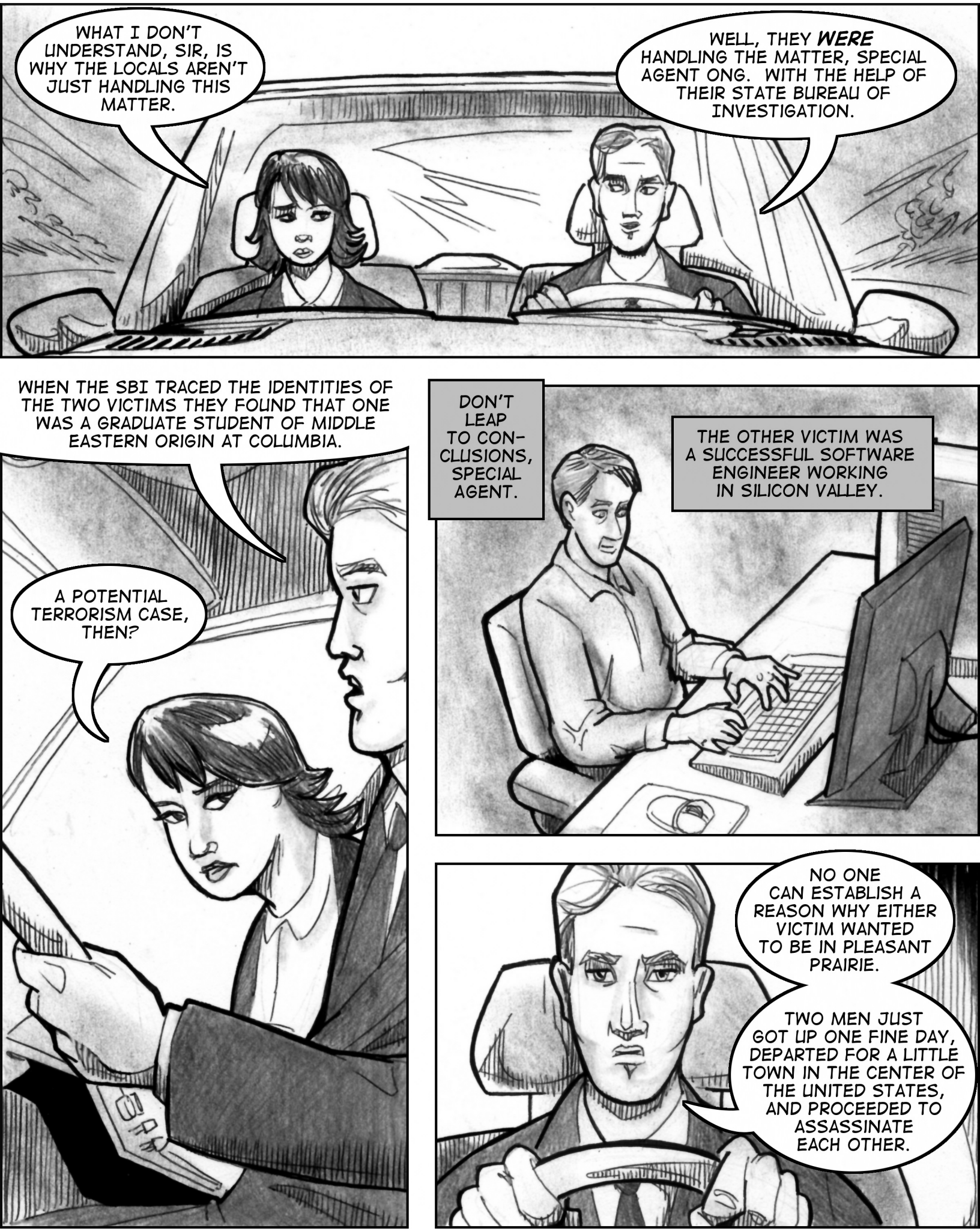

WHY DIDN'T IT EVEN *TRY* TO RUN AWAY?
THIS PREPARATION APPEARS TO COMPLETELY SUPPRESS THE NEURAL CIRCUITRY THAT GENERATES THE FEAR OF DEATH.


WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE VERNON JACKSON WOULD HAVE WORKED ON A DRUG LIKE THAT ONE?
WELL, I'M NOT SURE WHY VERNON JACKSON THOUGHT ANYTHING, BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE...


AN ARMY FULL OF MEN HOPPED UP ON THIS ONE SURE WOULD BE DANGEROUS.


I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT A HUMAN TEST ON THIS ONE. TOO DANGEROUS.
I'M AFRAID I AGREE. IGOR?


OF COURSE.
WE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING UNETHICAL.


WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR, IS WHY THE LOCALS AREN'T JUST HANDLING THIS MATTER.
WELL, THEY WERE HANDLING THE MATTER, SPECIAL AGENT ONG. WITH THE HELP OF THEIR STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
WHEN THE SBI TRACED THE IDENTITIES OF THE TWO VICTIMS THEY FOUND THAT ONE WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN ORIGIN AT COLUMBIA.
A POTENTIAL TERRORISM CASE, THEN?
DON'T LEAP TO CONCLUSIONS, SPECIAL AGENT.
THE OTHER VICTIM WAS A SUCCESSFUL SOFTWARE ENGINEER WORKING IN SILICON VALLEY.
NO ONE CAN ESTABLISH A REASON WHY EITHER VICTIM WANTED TO BE IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE.
TWO MEN JUST GOT UP ONE FINE DAY, DEPARTED FOR A LITTLE TOWN IN THE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES, AND PROCEEDED TO ASSASSINATE EACH OTHER.


THE LOCAL SBI THOUGHT THE WHOLE STORY WAS TOO WEIRD, SO THEY CONTACTED THE LOCAL FIELD OFFICE FOR SUPPORT.
CHRIST, WHAT A MESS.
517
DID THE F.O. KNOW ANYTHING?
FBI


NO. BUT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION CAME UP WITH SOMETHING.
OUR "VICTIMS" TURNED OUT TO BE AGENTS OF A PAIR OF MIDDLE-EASTERN POWERS WITH A NASTY HISTORY TOGETHER.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY WOULD THEY COME *HERE?*
CLASSIFIED
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF GNOSIS COLLEGE, SPECIAL AGENT ONG? JACK MACNEIL AND I WORKED A FEW CASES AROUND THERE BEFORE HE GOT PROMOTED AND TRANSFERRED TO HEADQUARTERS.


I THINK THEY HEARD ABOUT SOMETHING GOING ON HERE.
AND GNOSIS COLLEGE IS A PLACE WHERE SOME REALLY *WEIRD* SHIT HAPPENS.
FBI


"WE BEGIN IN THE MADNESS OF CARNAL DESIRE AND TRANSPORT OF VOLUPTUOUSNESS, WE END IN THE DISSOLUTION OF ALL OUR PARTS AND A MUSTY STENCH OF CORPSES."
"AND THE ROAD FROM THE ONE TO THE OTHER GOES, IN REGARD TO OUR WELL-BEING AND ENJOYMENT OF LIFE, STEADILY DOWNHILL: HAPPILY DREAMING CHILDHOOD, EXULTANT YOUTH..."
"...TOIL-FILLED YEARS OF MANHOOD, INFIRM AND OFTEN WRETCHED OLD AGE, THE TORMENT OF THE LAST ILLNESS AND FINALLY THE THROES OF DEATH."


RRRING!
PROFESSOR WAITE?
...CAN'T TALK ON THE PHONE... COME OVER TO MY PLACE...PICK UP A NEWSPAPER ON THE WAY.
UH, OKAY.
NICE BEARD.
THANKS. I GUESS. IS YOUR, UH... IS PROFESSOR WAITE HOME?
REBECCA'S IN THE KITCHEN. COME IN.
ISN'T IT A LITTLE LATE FOR YOU TO BE UP?
JUST LET ME GET THROUGH PUBERTY AND WE'LL SEE WHO KEEPS WHO UP.


IS THIS REALLY AN APPROPRIATE SITUATION FOR... KIDS, PROFESSOR WAITE?
YOU'LL FIND THEM WISE BEYOND THEIR YEARS, TAYLOR. DID YOU BRING THE NEWSPAPER?


LOOKS BAD, REBECCA.
GODDAMN FEDS.
FBI TO INVESTIGATE

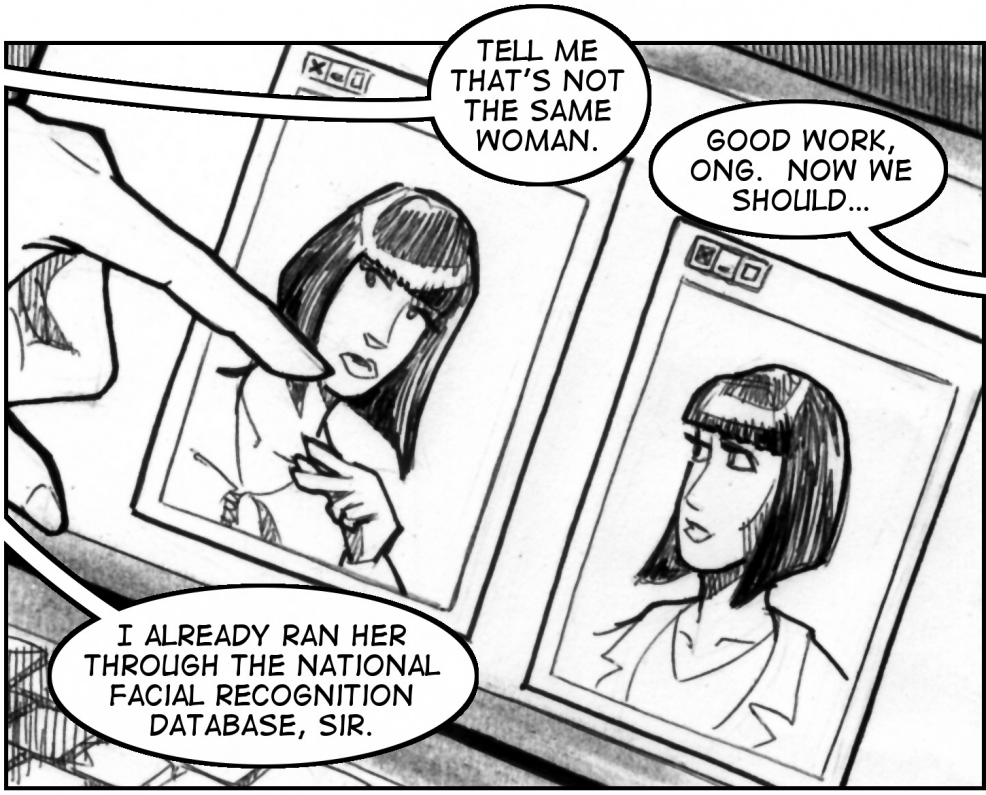

WE'RE HOPING THAT ALL THIS EXCITEMENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT LOOKS LIKE A DOCTORED MANUAL FOR MAKING SOME VERY MIND-ALTERING DRUGS, TAYLOR. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US?


WELL, IT ALL BEGINS WITH SOME LETTERS I FOUND DOING A HISTORY PROJECT ...



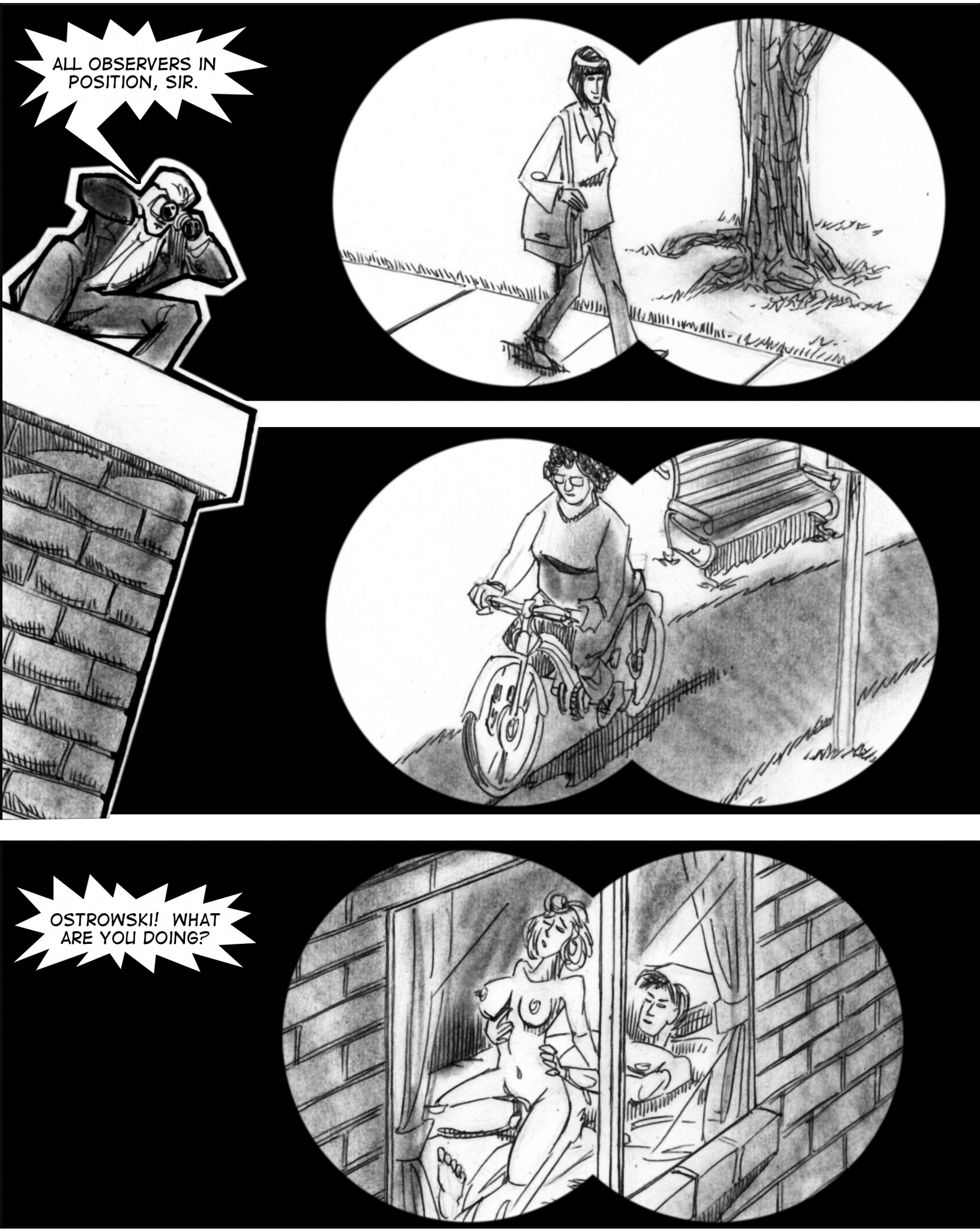


MR. SILICON VALLEY HAS LOTS OF PICTURES OF HIS PROGRAMMER BROS DOING BRO-Y THINGS, WHILE MR. COLUMBIA HAS PICTURES OF FAMILY AND WHAT I GUESS WAS HIS GIRLFRIEND, BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE ONE FIGURE IN COMMON...






SO THERE'S THE OLD MANUSCRIPT BY VERNON JACKSON, SOMETHING WEIRD ON CHILI NIGHT, AND NOW INSANE CRIMES IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE. AND YOU THINK ALL THIS MEANS *WHAT* EXACTLY?
THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW STALKING MEDEA FELDSTEIN AND FATIMA FADIL.
CIRCLING LIKE VULTURES...
WANTING WHAT THEY HAVE...
WHAT *YOU* GAVE THEM!
LOOK, EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, WE CAN'T FIGHT *GOVERNMENTS*...
NO, BUT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FOOL THEM A BIT.
MAYBE YOU'RE THINKING OF WHO I'M THINKING OF?

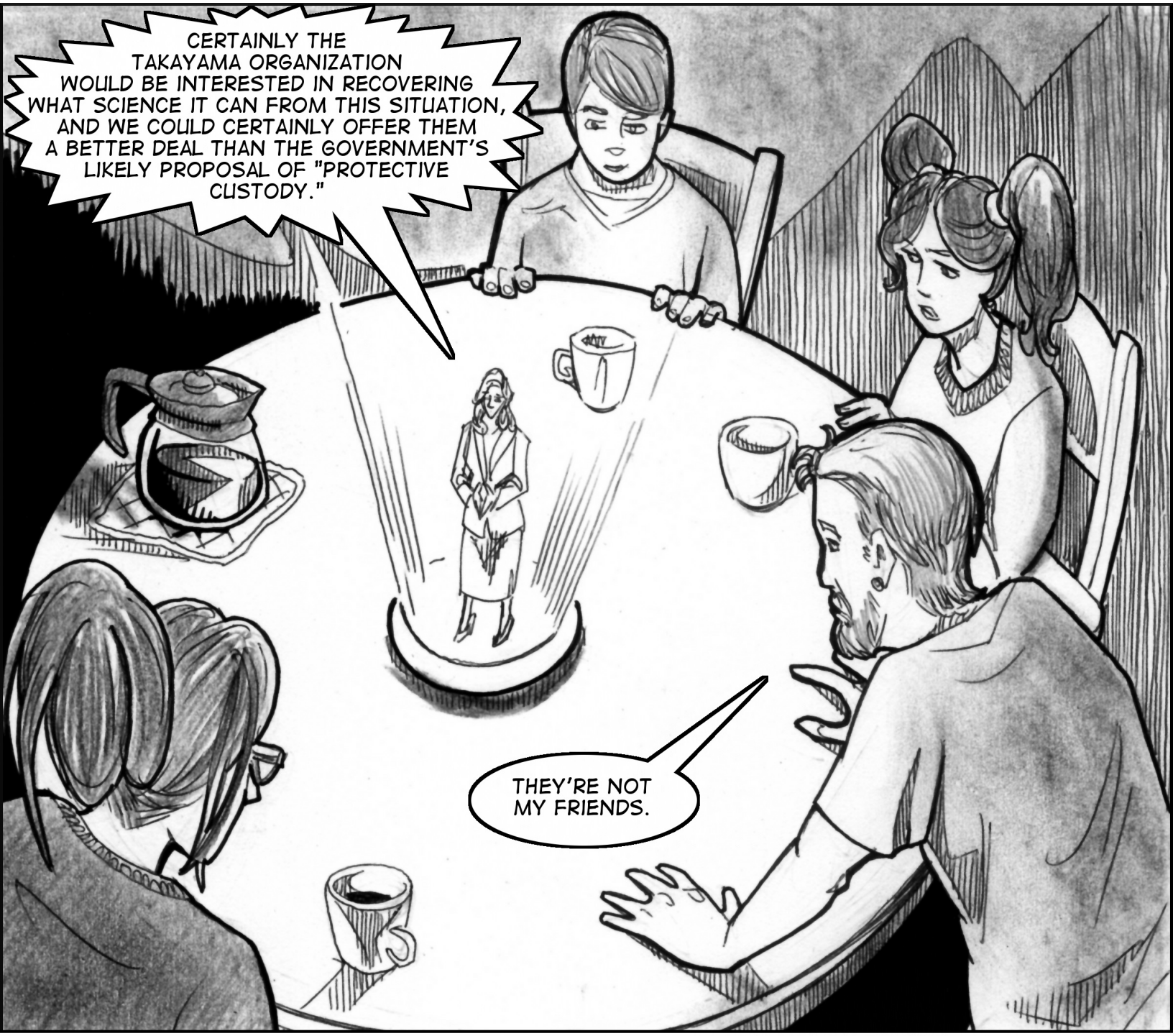

ALL OBSERVERS IN POSITION, SIR.
OSTROWSKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

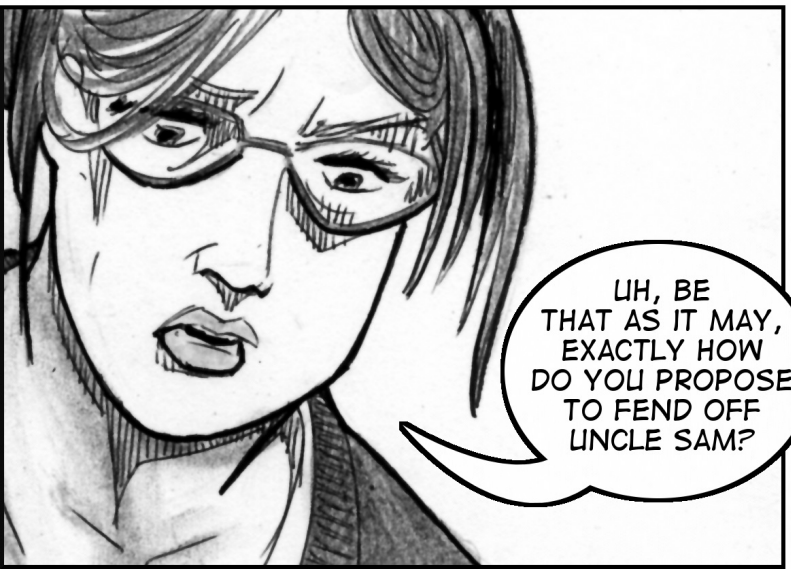


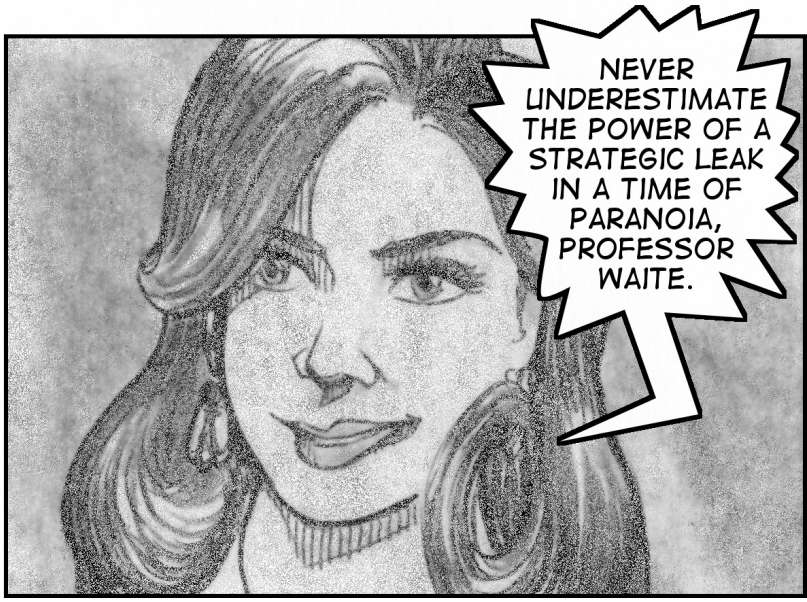

OPEN
DISCRETELY
396
414
415

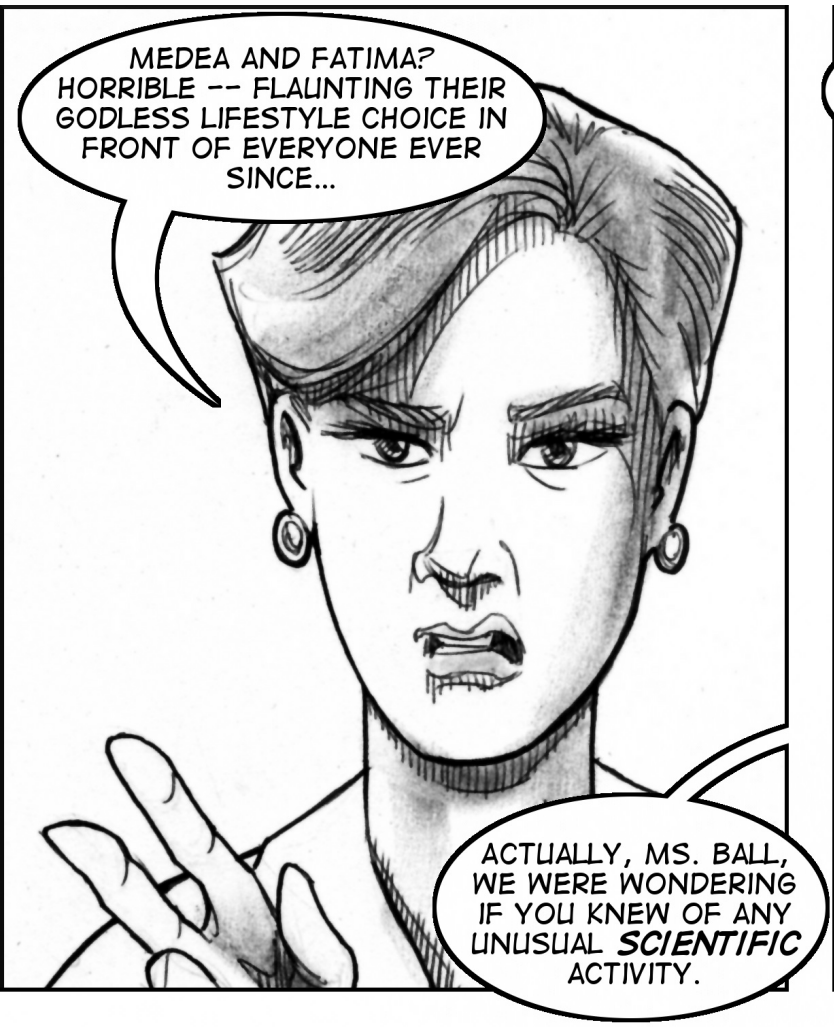

SOMETHING
NO ONE
ELSE
HAS
TRIED!




CERTAINLY THE TAKAYAMA ORGANIZATION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECOVERING WHAT SCIENCE IT CAN FROM THIS SITUATION, AND WE COULD CERTAINLY OFFER THEM A BETTER DEAL THAN THE GOVERNMENT'S LIKELY PROPOSAL OF "PROTECTIVE CUSTODY."
THEY'RE NOT MY FRIENDS.


UH, BE THAT AS IT MAY, EXACTLY HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO FEND OFF UNCLE SAM?


NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A STRATEGIC LEAK IN A TIME OF PARANOIA, PROFESSOR WAITE.


MEDEA AND FATIMA? HORRIBLE -- FLAUNTING THEIR GODLESS LIFESTYLE CHOICE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE EVER SINCE...
ACTUALLY, MS. BALL, WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU KNEW OF ANY UNUSUAL ***SCIENTIFIC*** ACTIVITY.


OH, UH, WELL NO.
SPECIAL AGENT ONG, DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
DO YOU TRAVEL A LOT IN YOUR JOB?


WELL, YES.
DO YOU GET ***LONELY*** WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME?




OH, YES!!
TZZZZK!
MY TURN NOW!


THIS COCKTAIL IS JUST... AMAZING. I FEEL SO LIGHT AND STRONG.
YEAH, I KNOW. AND I HAVE A NEW IDEA ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO WHILE WE'RE ON IT.
whisper, whisper
MAYBE, BABY.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?


ALRIGHT, YOU ALL HAVE YOUR SURVEILLANCE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NIGHT AND...
PIZZA
ΑΣΠ
RRRING!
FRAT-I BEE


SPECIAL AGENT SMITH SPEAKING...
WHAT?!


WHAT IS IT, SIR?
WE'RE BEING TOLD TO STAND DOWN.
APPARENTLY THIS CASE IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF ANOTHER AGENCY.
TO BE CONTINUED!

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

SPECIAL AGENT ONG

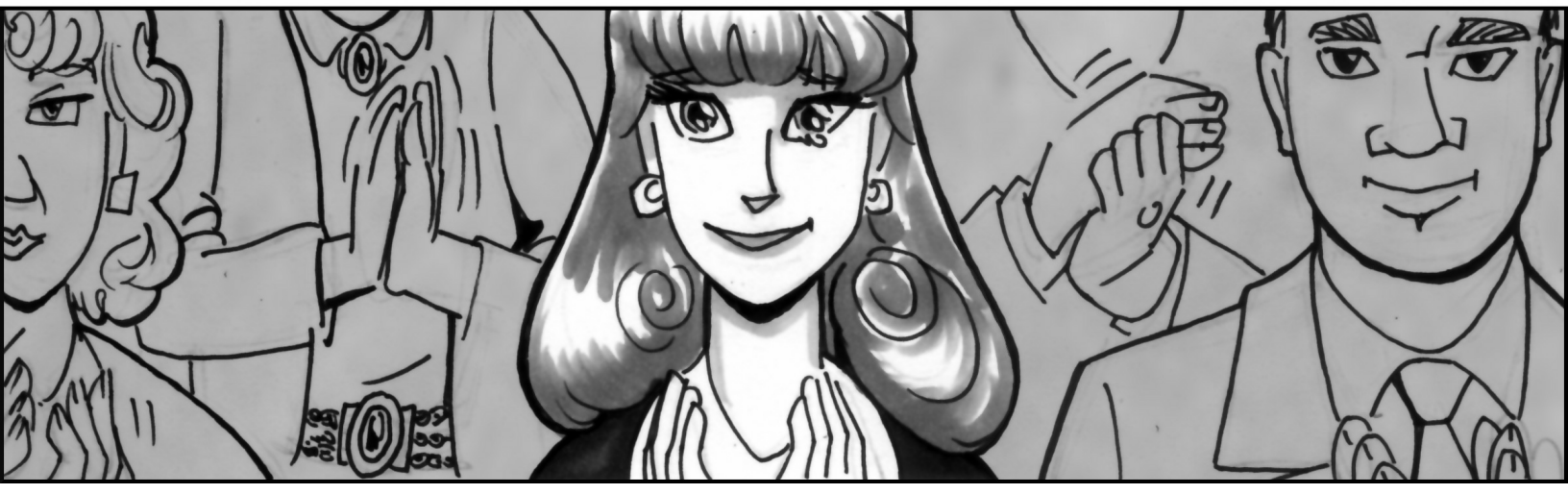



TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
TAYLOR NUMBER 3
TAYLOR TALES
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


DO YOU HEAR THAT, COPPERS? WE EXECUTE ONE IMPERIALIST HOSTAGE AN HOUR UNTIL OUR DEMANDS ARE MET!
TIOCFAIDH ĀR LĀ!
SITUATION, SERGEANT STEELE?
THEY STORMED THE CONSULATE AND ARE DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED TERRORISTS.
STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY IS ON THE WAY, BUT EVEN BY TURBOCRAFT IT WILL TAKE THEM THREE HOURS...
THAT'S TOO LONG. IS THERE ANY OTHER ACCESS?
THERE'S A SKYLIGHT OVER THE BALLROOM BUT... JESUS JACK, YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF...
OH, YES.
THIS IS THE PART OF CO-WORK THAT GETS ME HARD, DAN.


EAT BUCKSHOT, YOU FENIAN FUCKERS!
"TAYLOR TALES 3"
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS

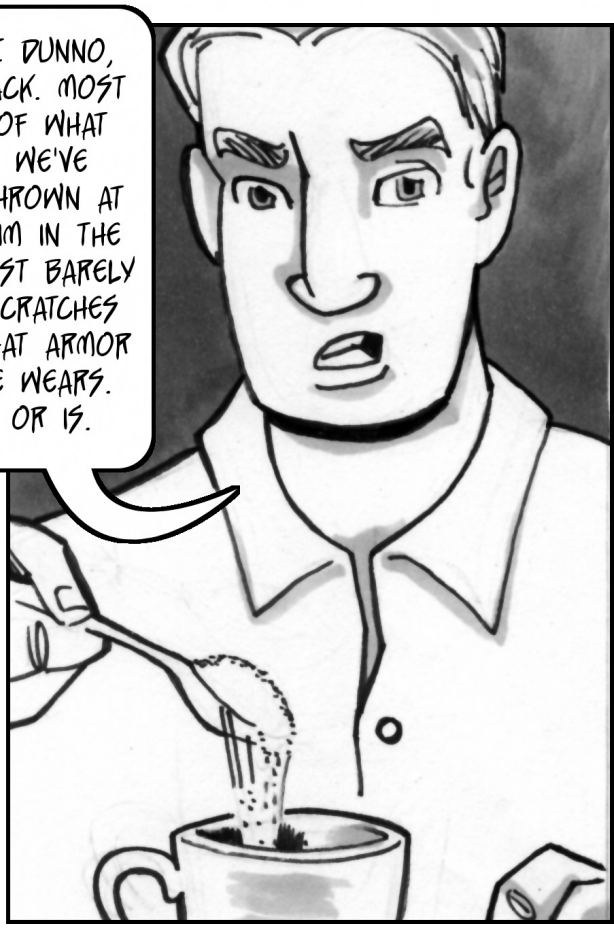

FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY AND RESOURCEFULNESS IN RESCUING THESE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FROM TERRORISTS...

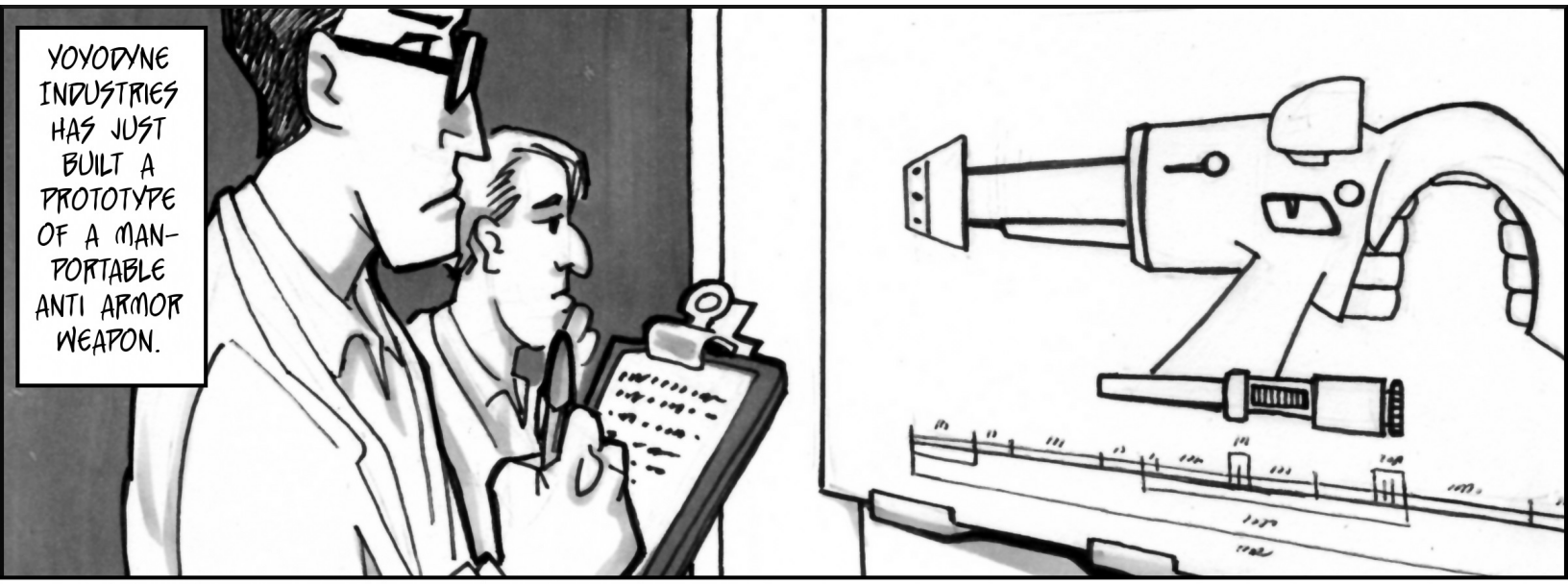


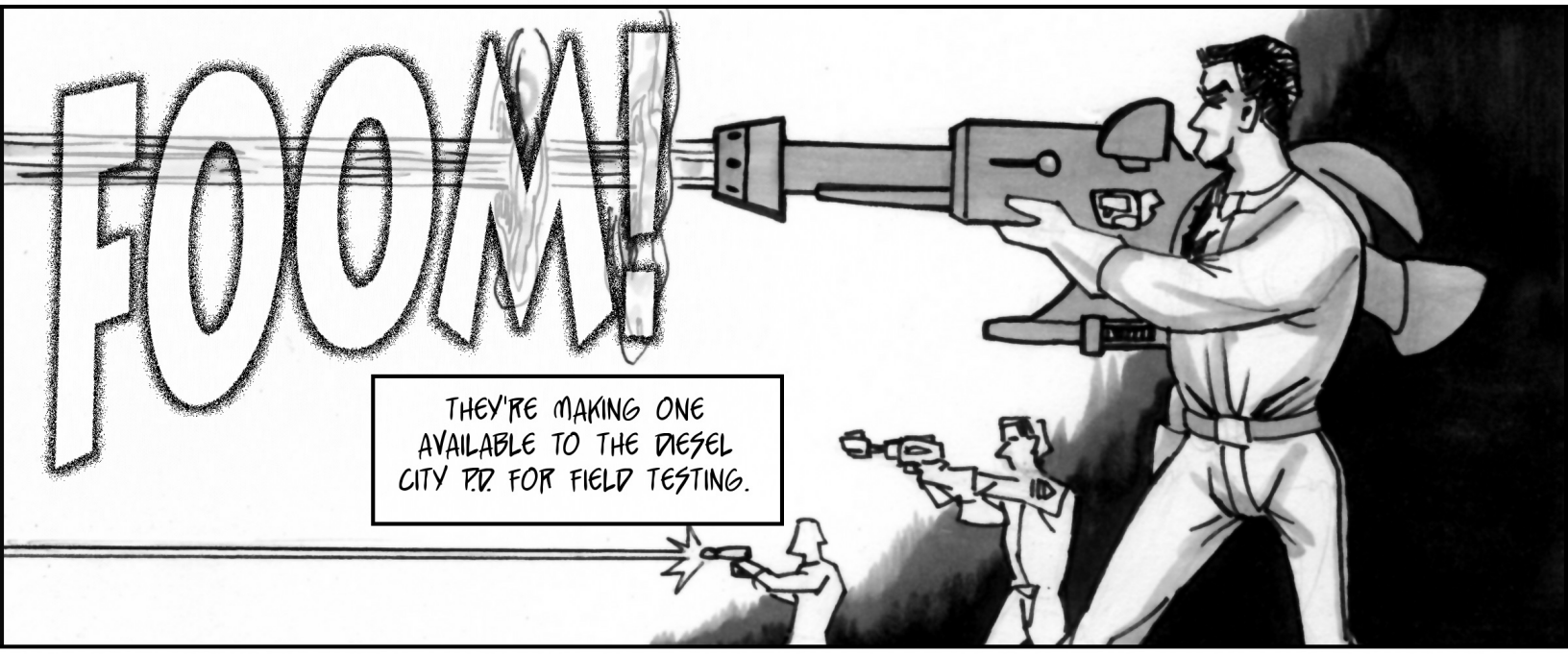

SO, CONGRATULATIONS CAPTAIN ROCK. WHAT'S NEXT IN HEROICS?
PAY BUMPS OPEN POSSIBILITIES, DAN. BETSY?


WOW! MORE CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN-AND-FUTURE-MRS. ROCK!


ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS STOP THE BLACK ENGINE AND I CAN BE CHIEF. OR MAYBE EVEN MAYOR.
JACK...
TODAY'S SPECIAL


I DUNNO, JACK. MOST OF WHAT WE'VE THROWN AT HIM IN THE PAST BARELY SCRATCHES THAT ARMOR HE WEARS. OR IS.


YOYODYNE INDUSTRIES HAS JUST BUILT A PROTOTYPE OF A MAN-PORTABLE ANTI ARMOR WEAPON.


FOOM!
THEY'RE MAKING ONE AVAILABLE TO THE DIESEL CITY P.D. FOR FIELD TESTING.


A DIRECT HIT CAN PUNCH THROUGH TWO INCHES OF CARBO-STEEL.


IT DOES HAVE TO BE RELOADED AFTER EVERY SHOT...
...BUT ALL I NEED IS THE RIGHT ONE AT THE BLACK ENGINE AND IT'S GOODBYE GANGSTER.

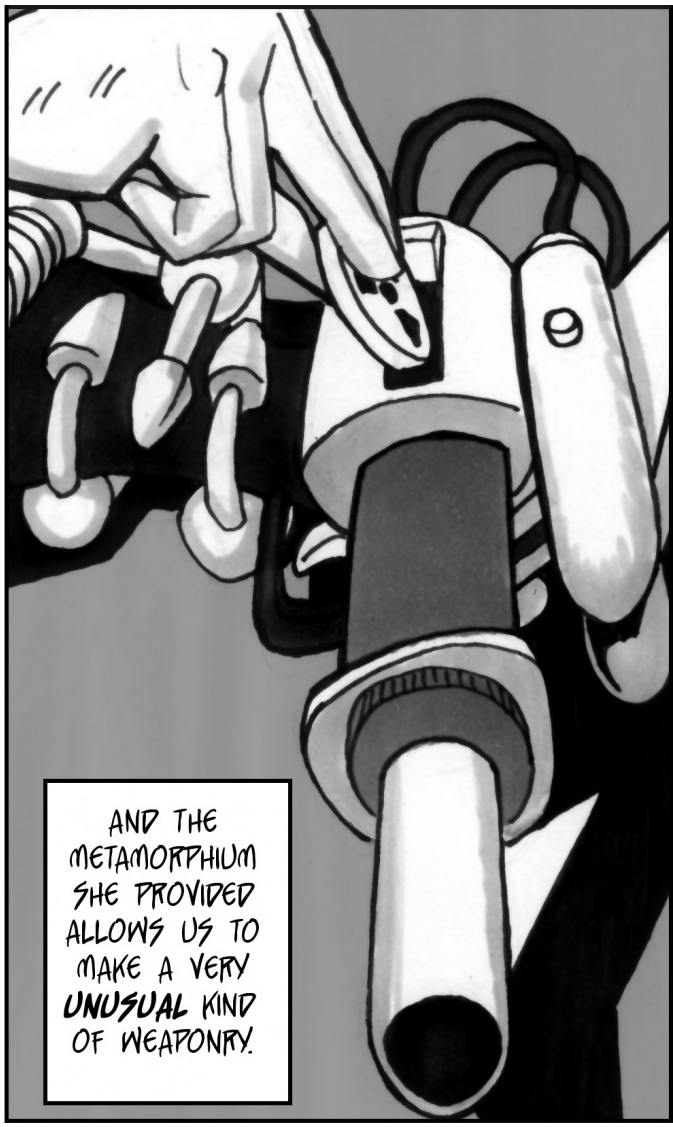

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT IT'S HARD TO CONCEIVE IT...
...THAT YOU'D THROW AWAY ROMANCE...
ARE YOU PRETENDING...
URK!
BLACK ENGINE, I SUGGEST YOU MEET ME...


WHAT THE... ?!
I HAVE NOT HARMED YOUR COMRADE, BLACK ENGINE. HE IS ONLY SLEEPING.
NEITHER HAVE I TAKEN YOUR MONEY, THOUGH I COULD HAVE EASILY DONE SO.
BUT I DID FIND AND INFILTRATE YOUR HEADQUARTERS, WHICH WAS NO EASY THING.
I WOULD LIKE TO TALK... WITH AN EYE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

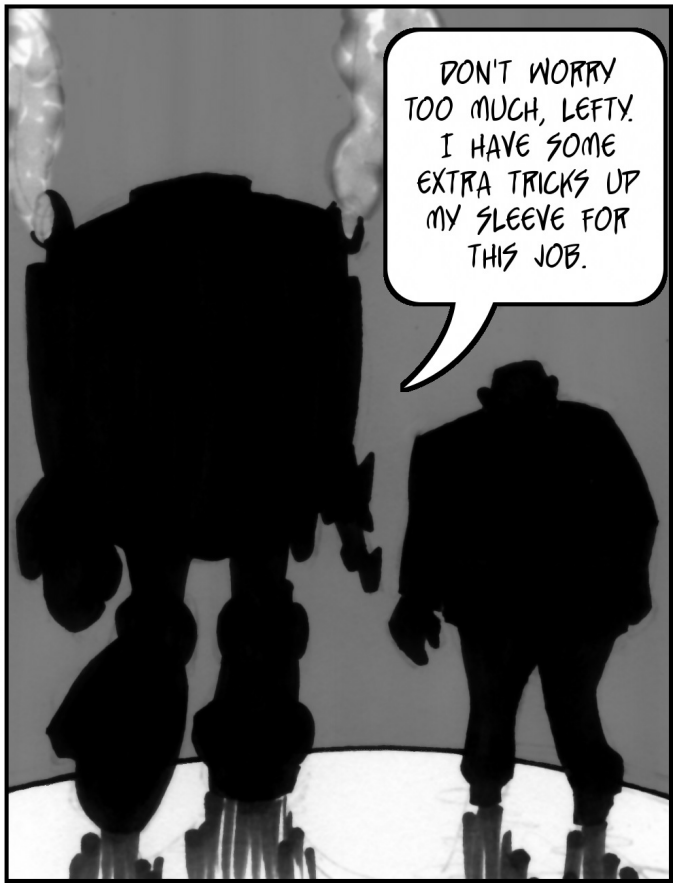

PUT THE GUNS AWAY, BOYS.
I'LL TALK TO THE LADY.
MY NAME IS SOO LING...
I AM AN AGENT OF THE RESISTANCE FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. YOU HAVE HEARD OF US?
DR. COALHOUSE?
YES. YOU ARE RESISTING THE PARTITION OF CHINA BETWEEN THE EMPIRES OF BRITAIN AND JAPAN.
WE ARE RESISTING THAT.
AND WORSE.


THE RESISTANCE NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD, MEDICINE, AND ARMS. WE ALSO WANT TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE HELPING OUR ENEMIES.
WE CERTAINLY HAVE SYMPATHY FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE ANYWHERE, MISS LING.
BUT WE ALSO HAVE A STRUGGLE OF OUR OWN TO FIGHT RIGHT HERE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BLACK ENGINE.
WHICH IS WHY I BROUGHT SOMETHING TO OFFER AS PART OF A PARTNERSHIP.
THIS IS...METAMORPHIUM? WHERE...
LIBERATED FROM A MILITARY LAB IN SAN DIEGO ON MY WAY HERE.
DAMN. YOU ARE GOOD.

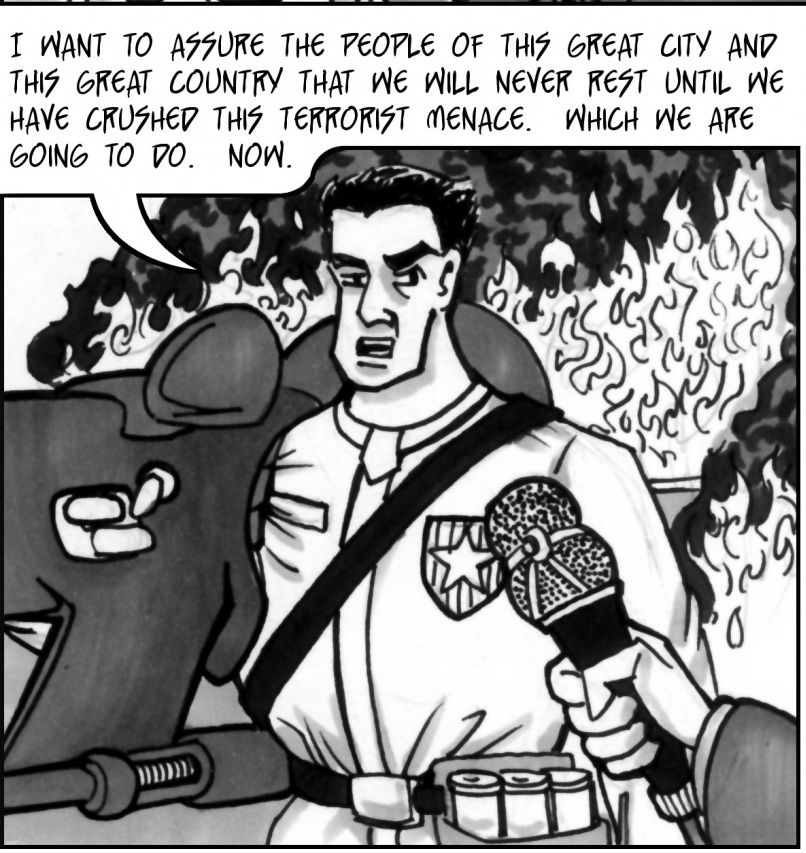

I DUNNO, BOSS. ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD TRUST THIS WOMAN?
WELL, LEFTY, SHE MIGHT HAVE MOVED YOU A BIT CLOSER TO JESUS, BUT SHE DIDN'T


AND THE METAMORPHIUM SHE PROVIDED ALLOWS US TO MAKE A VERY **UNUSUAL** KIND OF WEAPONRY.


BUT THE LIMBAUGH CHEMICAL WORKS? THEY GUARD THAT PLACE LIKE FORT KNOX...
YEAH, AND THEY ALSO EXPORT BOTH **MUSTARD GAS** AND **JELLIED GASOLINE** TO THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY.


DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, LEFTY. I HAVE SOME EXTRA TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE FOR THIS JOB.


I'M COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE LIMBAUGH CHEMICAL WORKS IN DIESEL CITY, U.S.A. THE FACTORY IS IN FLAMES, APPARENTLY ATTACKED BY SABOTEURS.
PRESS
BAUGH
ICAL
THERE ARE FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE EVERYWHERE AND...WAIT...WAIT...I THINK I SEE FAMED CAPTAIN JACK ROCK OF THE DIESEL CITY POLICE. CAPTAIN ROCK, CAN WE GET A QUICK WORD, SIR?
FD

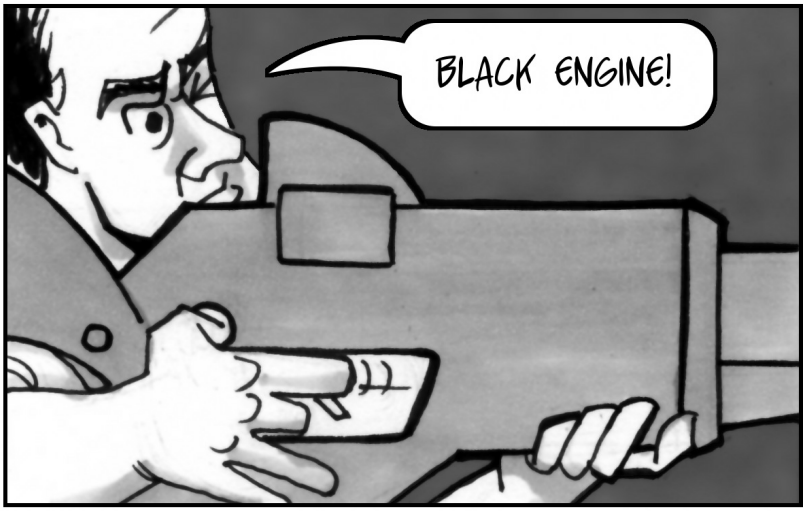

I WANT TO ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY AND THIS GREAT COUNTRY THAT WE WILL NEVER REST UNTIL WE HAVE CRUSHED THIS TERRORIST MENACE. WHICH WE ARE GOING TO DO. NOW.

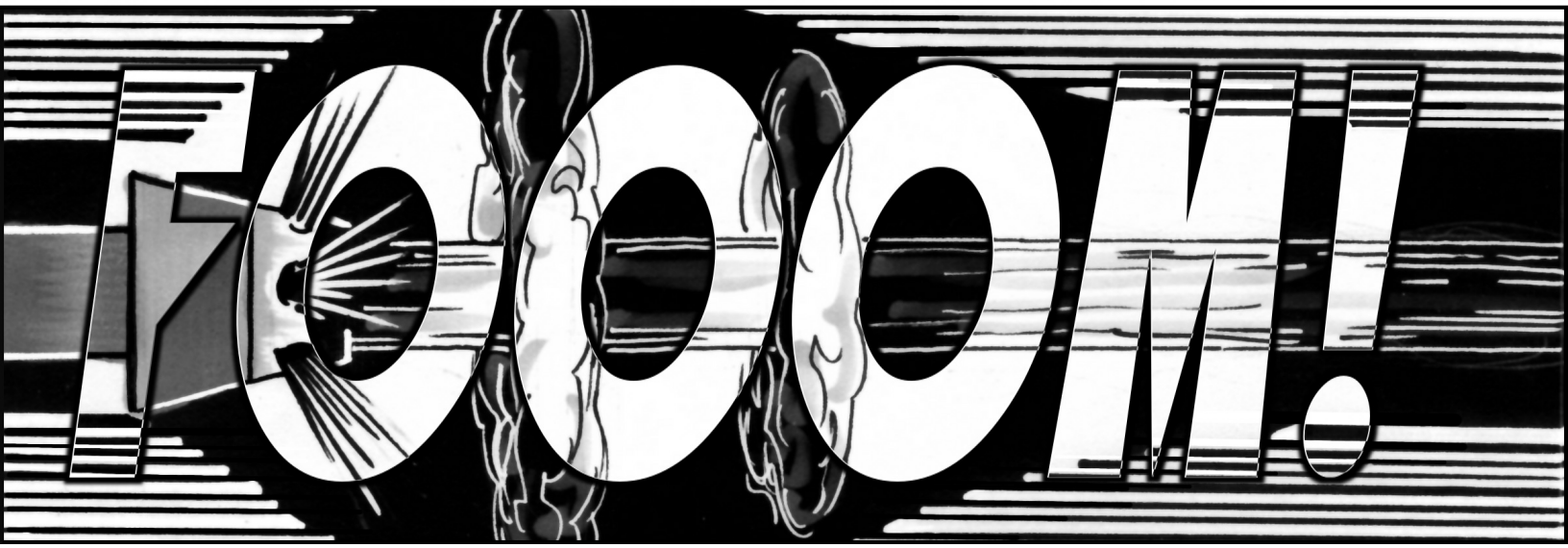

WELL, THERE HE GOES, FOLKS. A REAL AMERICAN HERO. AND WE CERTAINLY WISH HIM LUCK. BACK OVER TO YOU, NEW YORK.


CHECK THAT AISLE THERE, SERGEANT. I'M GOING TO CHECK A HUNCH.


DESTROY!
RRAAW!!




BLACK ENGINE!


FOOOM!

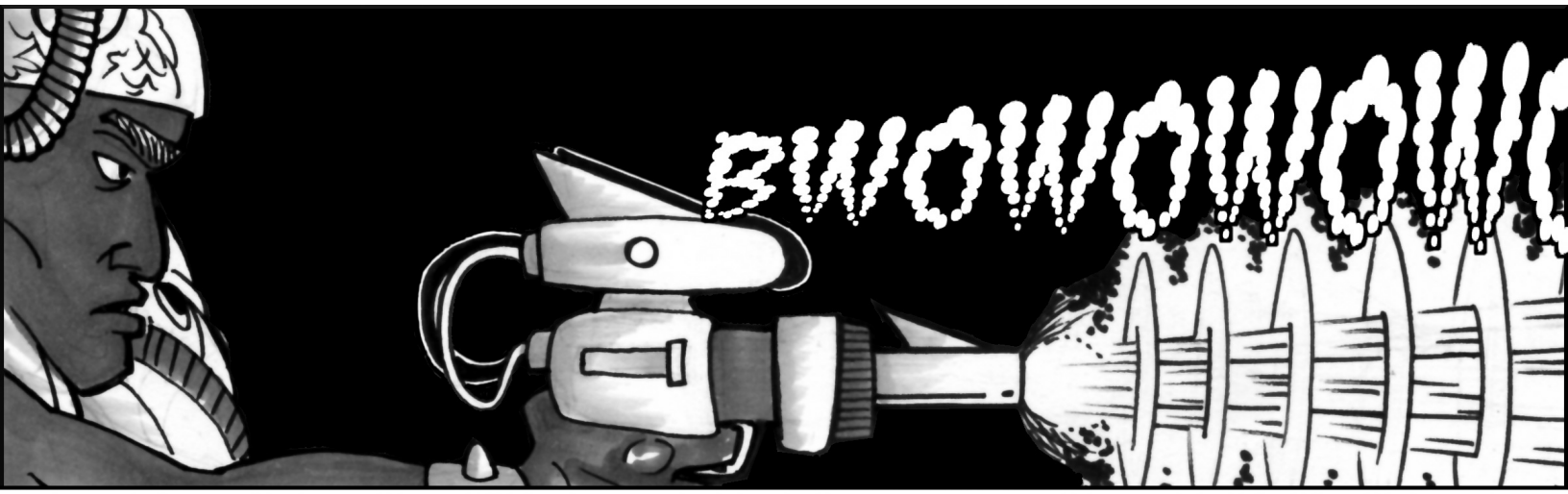

BA BOOSH!






zzz-
zzzk


SHOOT A MAN IN THE BACK, WITHOUT A WARNING OR A CHANCE TO SURRENDER. WELL DONE, OFFICER.
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T COUNT ON ME HAVING A ROBOT DOUBLE.
YOU'RE A TERRORIST, BLACK ENGINE. AN ENEMY OF SOCIETY. YOU NEED TO BE PUT DOWN.
YOUR WAY OF DOING SO REVEALS A LOT ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER.
AND THAT OF THE SYSTEM YOU SERVE.
FINE. I'LL SHOOT YOU FROM THE FRONT IF YOU LIKE THAT SO MUCH BETTER...

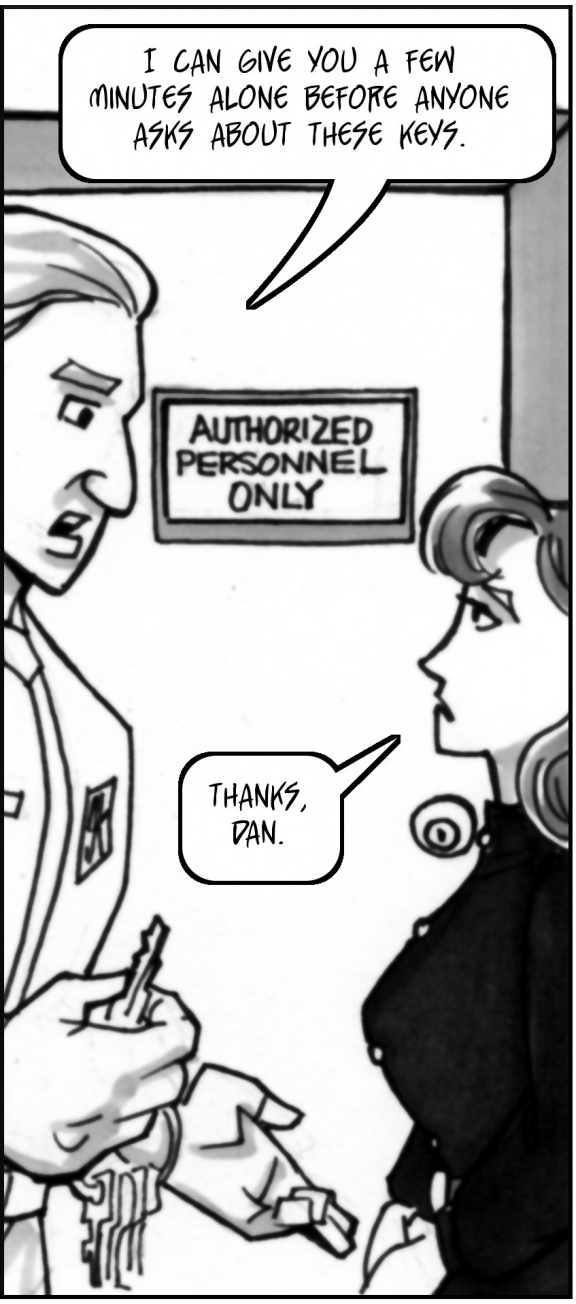

BWOWOWOWO


HRROAR!


JACK! JACK!
WHAT'S GOING ON?


OH...
NO...

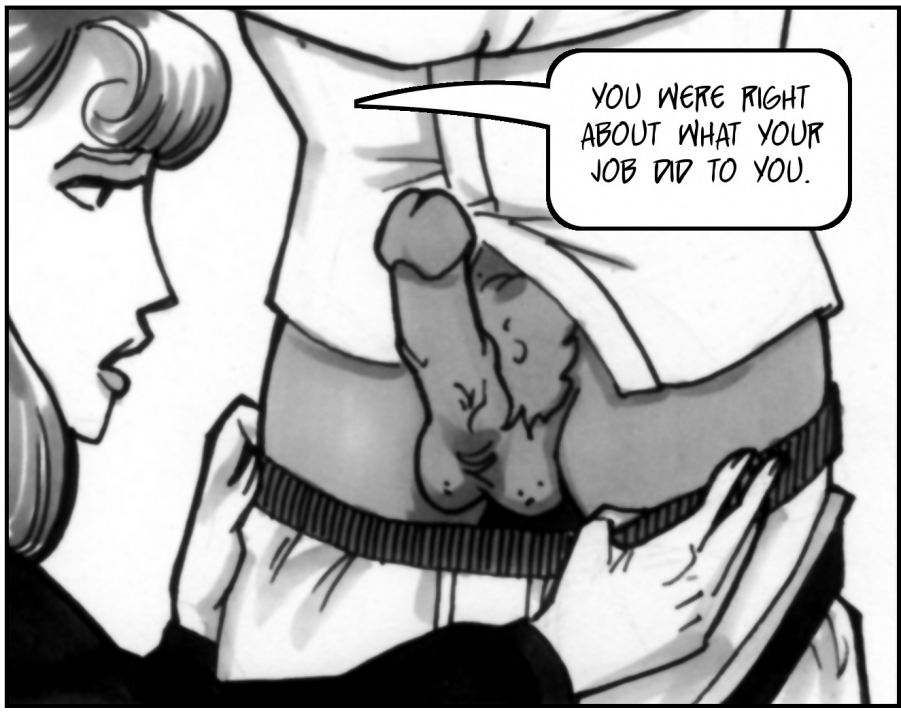

OH JESUS, JACK.





WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO THAT JACK? WHY DID YOU HAVE TO TRY TO BE A HERO? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A FUTURE TOGETHER, JACK.






C'MON, BETSY. DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF. LET ME AT LEAST DRIVE YOU HOME.
WE CAN'T JUST FORGET ABOUT JACK, DAN. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.
LET ME GET WHAT I FOUND AT THE NEWSSTAND.
SEE, THERE'S THIS SCIENTIST, DR. URULCHEK. HE WORKS ON STATES OF MATTER. AND HE'S AT GNOSIS COLLEGE.
THAT'S IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE, LESS THAN 50 MILES AWAY.
FANTASTIC AMERICAN SCIENCE
OKAY, OKAY. I'M OFF TUESDAY. WE CAN TAKE THE TRAIN DOWN.
AMBER GOLDEN BEER
THANKS, DAN.
NOW LET'S GET YOU HOME.


IS MOST INTERESTING CASE, I ADMIT.
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, DR. URULCHECK?
IN SPITE OF HIS... TRANSFORMATION, CAPTAIN ROCK'S CELL STRUCTURE REMAINS INTACT TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF RESOLUTION AVAILABLE TO OUR INSTRUMENTS.

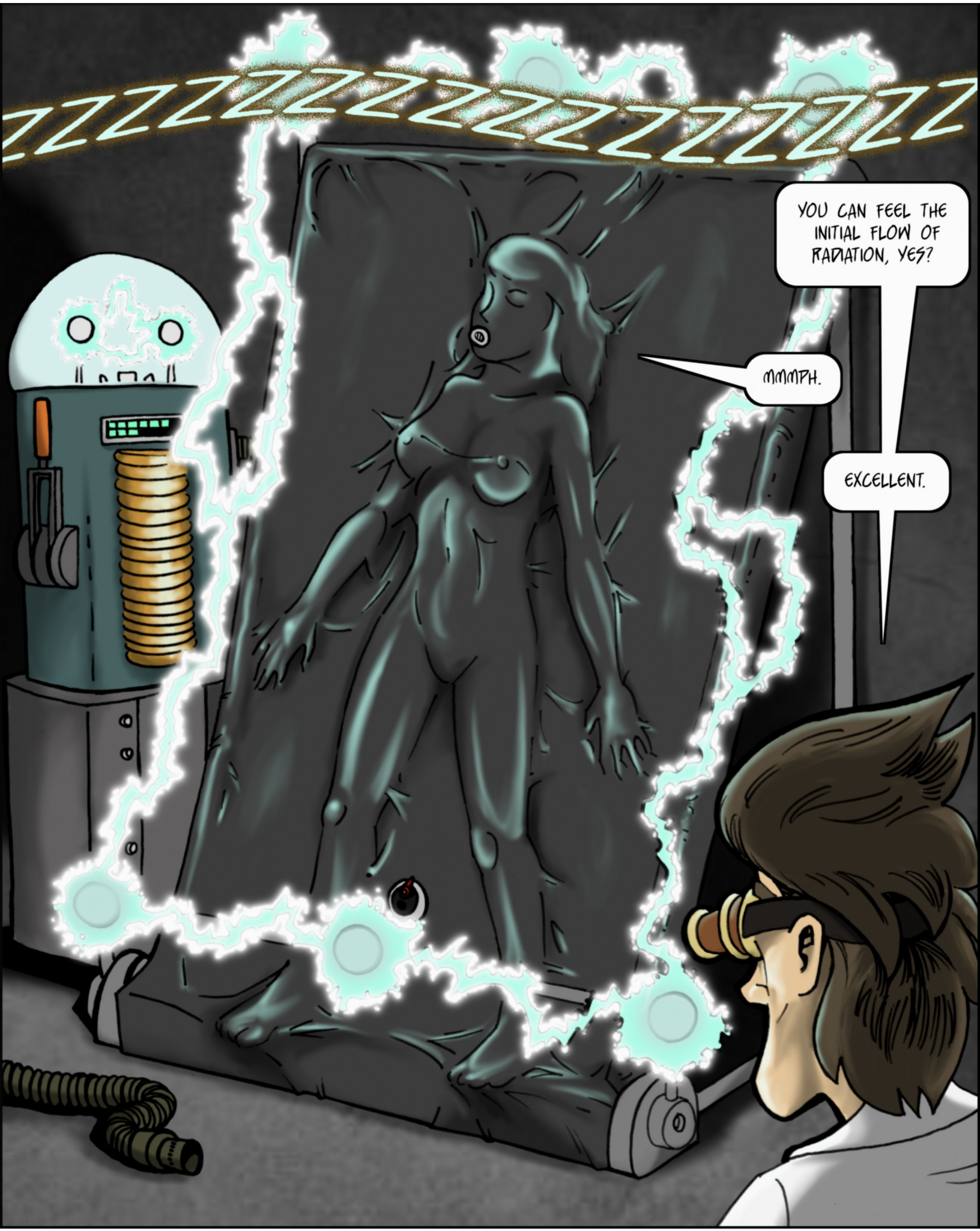

IN *THEORY* IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO EFFECT A SPONTANEOUS REVERSION OF THE CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURE, FROM WHICH STATE REVIVAL *MIGHT* BE POSSIBLE...


SO YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S A CHANCE, DR. URULCHEK?
BETSY...


NOT TOO FAST, MISS BROWN. THE AMOUNT OF ATOMIC FORCE USED WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY CALIBRATED. GET IT WRONG, AND ONE MIGHT TURN CAPTAIN ROCK INTO GELATINE...
SUCH TESTS WOULD CALL FOR A VERY BRAVE VOLUNTEER...

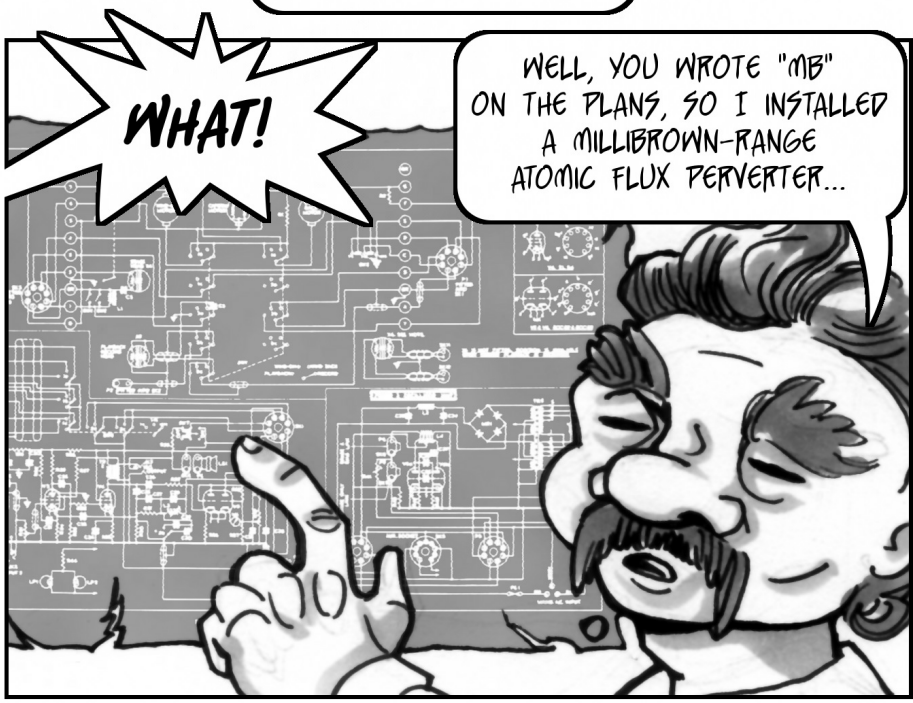

DR. URULCHEK, *I* WILL VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR CALIBRATION.


I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO THROUGH WITH THIS, BETSY.
I DON'T THINK IT'S WHAT JACK WOULD HAVE WANTED.
I AM DOING THIS, DAN, SO THAT WE WON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT JACK IN THE PAST TENSE ANYMORE.
THE VACUUM RESTRAINT TABLE IS READY, MISS BROWN.
I'LL HELP YOU INTO IT.
ZZZZZ
I HOPE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE, MISS BROWN.


ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
YOU CAN FEEL THE INITIAL FLOW OF RADIATION, YES?
MMMPH.
EXCELLENT.


NOW, AS WE DISCUSSED, ANY SOFTENING OF YOUR OWN TISSUES SHOULD BE IMPERCEPTIBLE AND TEMPORARY, ONLY DETECTABLE TO LABORATORY ANALYSIS.
OBLOMOV! INCREASE ATOMIC FLUX TO 40 MICROBROWNS!


OKAY, BOSS. WILL DO.
BY THE WAY, YOU MEANT 40 MILLIBROWNS, RIGHT?


WHAT!
WELL, YOU WROTE "MB" ON THE PLANS, SO I INSTALLED A MILLIBROWN-RANGE ATOMIC FLUX PERVERTER...


THE FLUX IS A THOUSAND TIMES TOO MUCH! TURN IT OFF! TURN IT OFF!


OH...
NO...

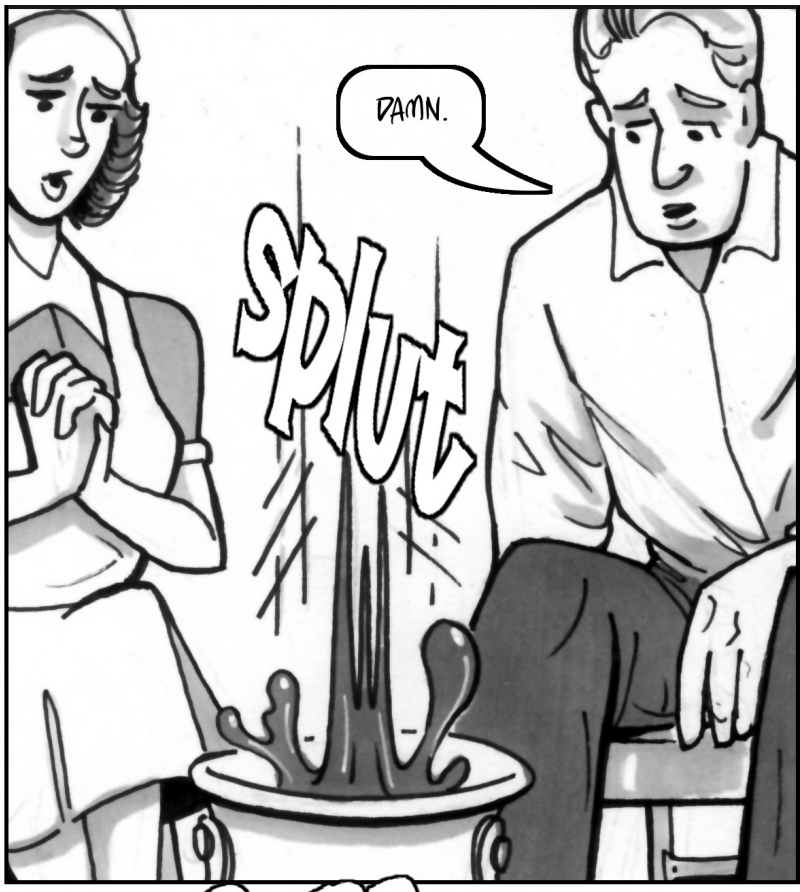





BETSY...

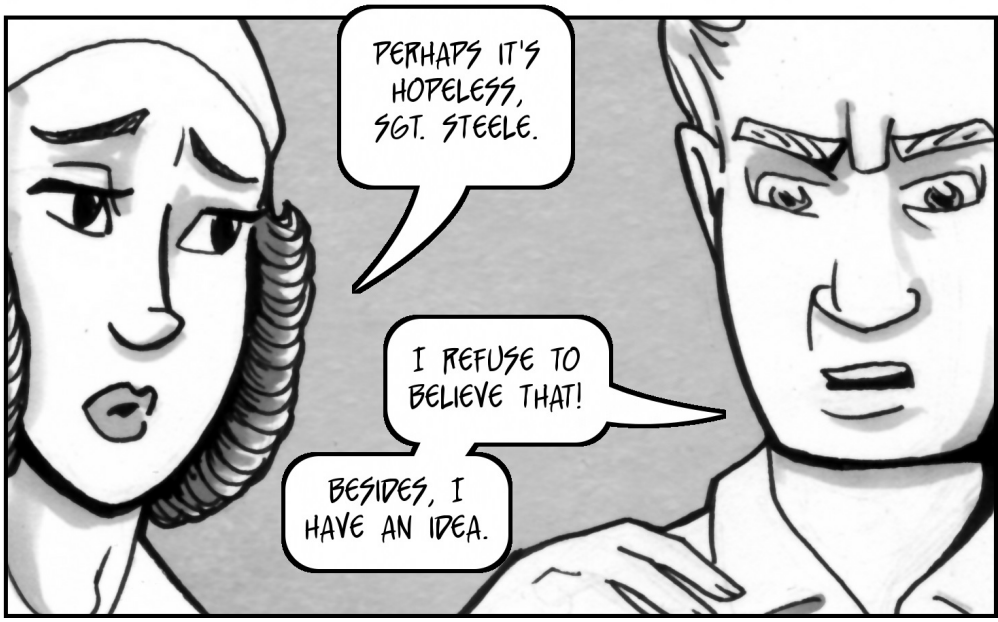

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST HAVE FELT TO RISK THIS, BETSY
OUT OF RESPECT FOR JACK IT WAS NEVER SOMETHING I COULD BRING MYSELF TO SAY, BUT...
I THINK IT WAS THE WAY I FELT ABOUT YOU.
B...
BETSY?


C'MON BETSY. YOU CAN DO IT!
MWRORR...
UGGLEGUGGLE...
PLOOP...


DAMN.
splut

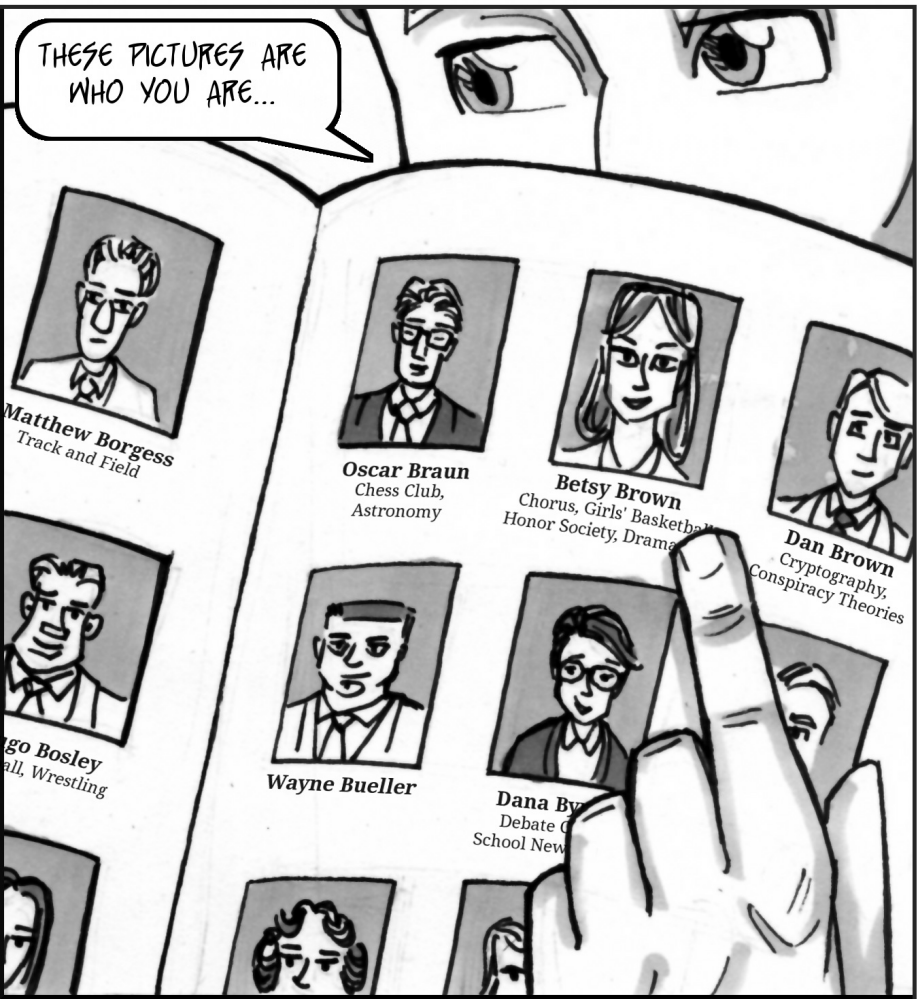

C'MON!
PHLORR!


SPLUT!

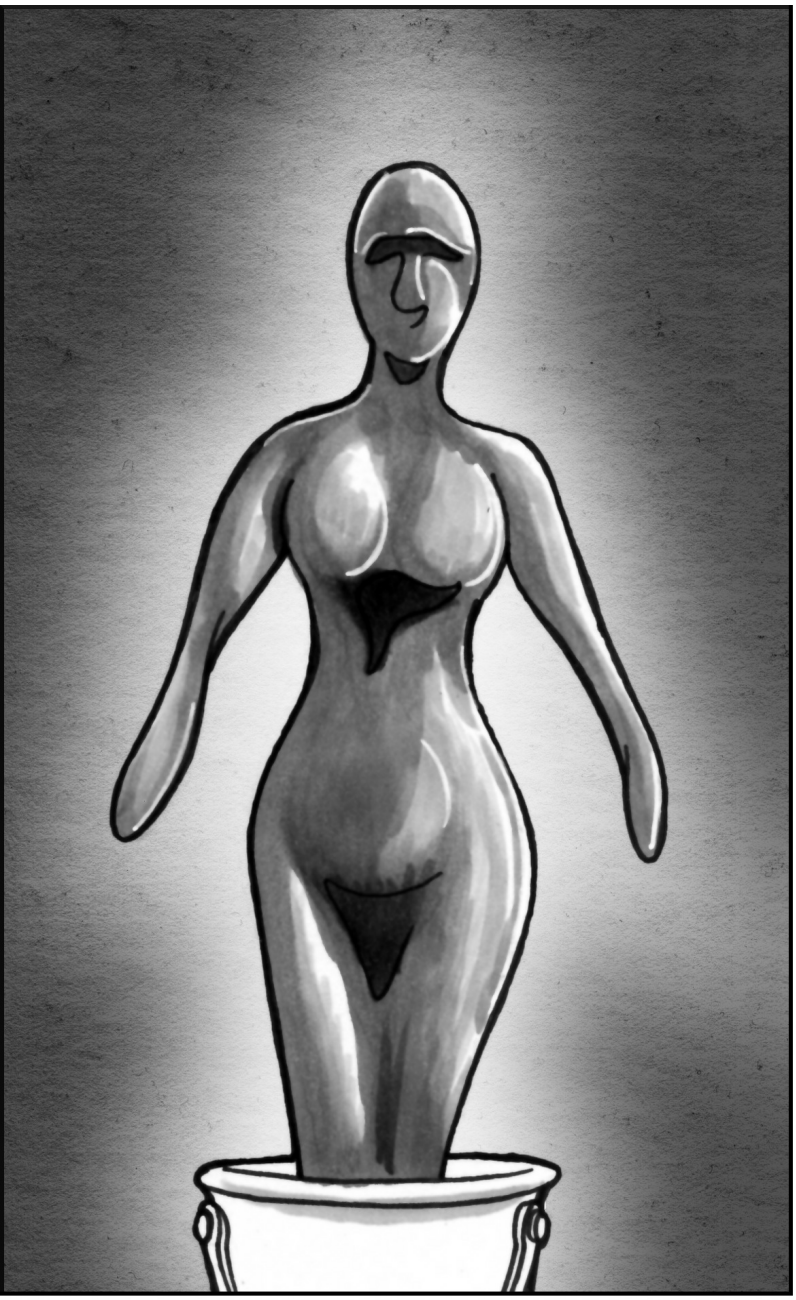

PERHAPS IT'S HOPELESS, SGT. STEELE.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT!
BESIDES, I HAVE AN IDEA.


DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT, BETSY? IT'S A PHOTO OF YOU AT YOUR SWEET SIXTEEN...

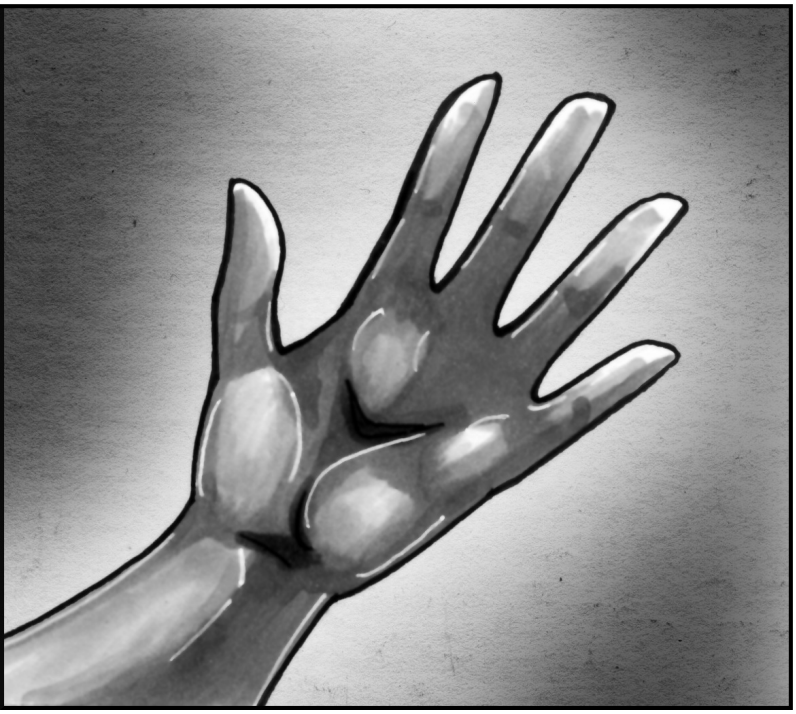

AND HERE'S YOU TAKING FIRST PRIZE IN THE STATE PIANO COMPETITION.
YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME HOW PROUD SHE FELT OF YOU THAT DAY.


THESE PICTURES ARE WHO YOU ARE...
Matthew Borgess
Track and Field
Oscar Braun
Chess Club, Astronomy
Betsy Brown
Chorus, Girls' Basketba
Honor Society, Drama
Dan Brown
Cryptography, Conspiracy Theories
go Bosley
all, Wrestling
Wayne Bueller
Dana By
Debate C
School New


...AND I'M GOING TO KEEP SHOWING THEM TO YOU UNTIL YOU CAN REMEMBER...

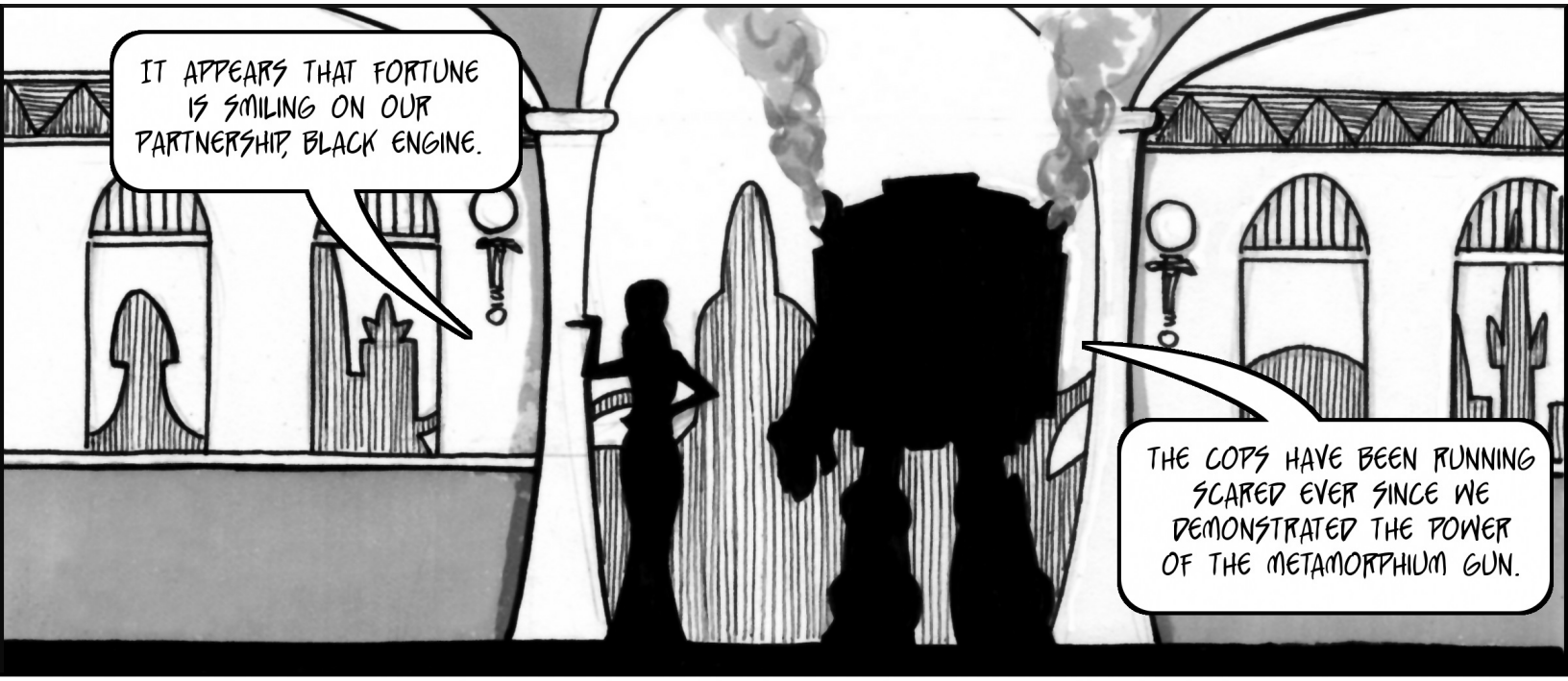








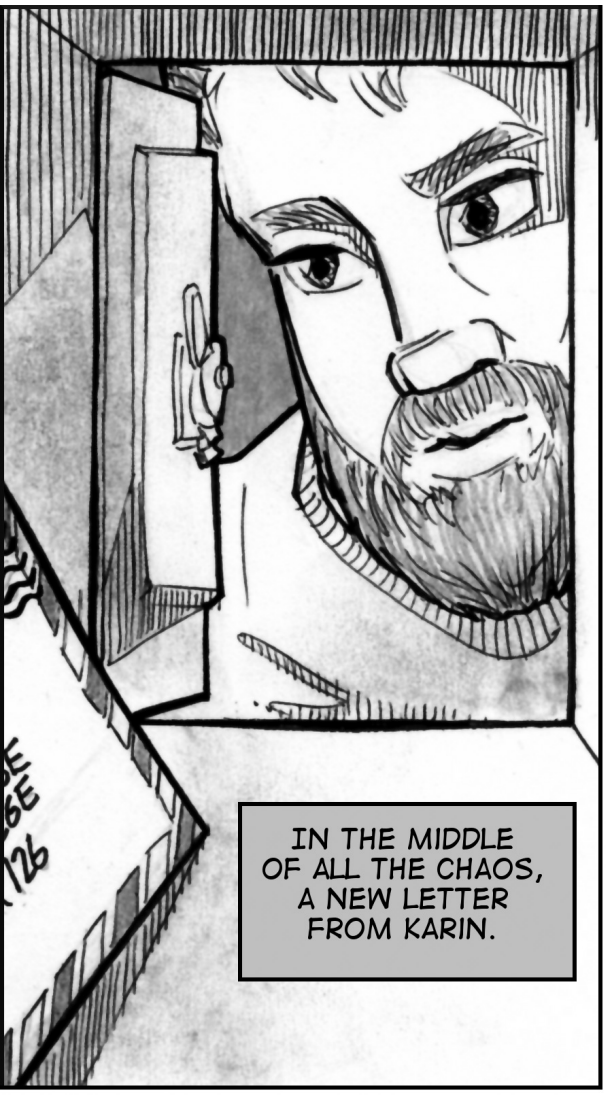

I FEEL THAT I AM... BACK.


IT APPEARS THAT FORTUNE IS SMILING ON OUR PARTNERSHIP, BLACK ENGINE.
THE COPS HAVE BEEN RUNNING SCARED EVER SINCE WE DEMONSTRATED THE POWER OF THE METAMORPHIUM GUN.


BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT FORTUNE'S WHEEL DOES TURN.
DIESEL CITY EXPRES
SCIENTISTS ANNOUNCE MIRACLE
'GELATINE WOMAN WALKS, TAL
Despite the public's repeated attempts to inform scien
that this time they
far, new resea

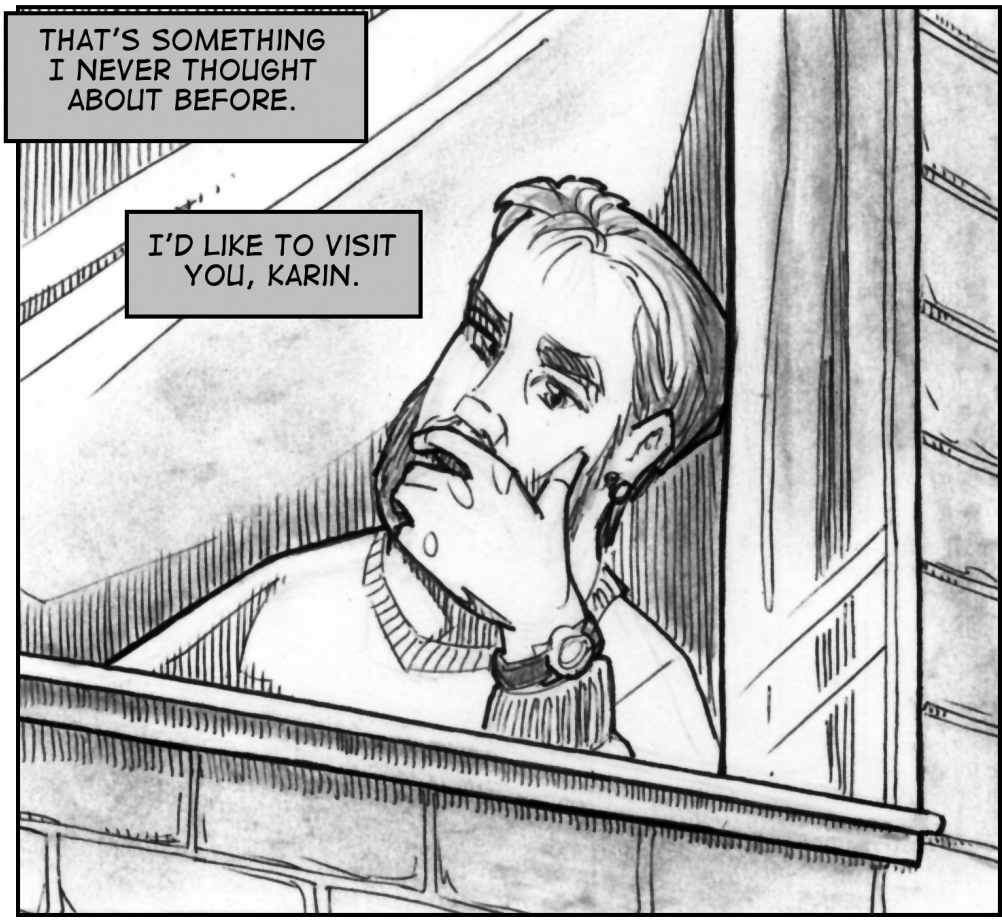
Lesbian Sin

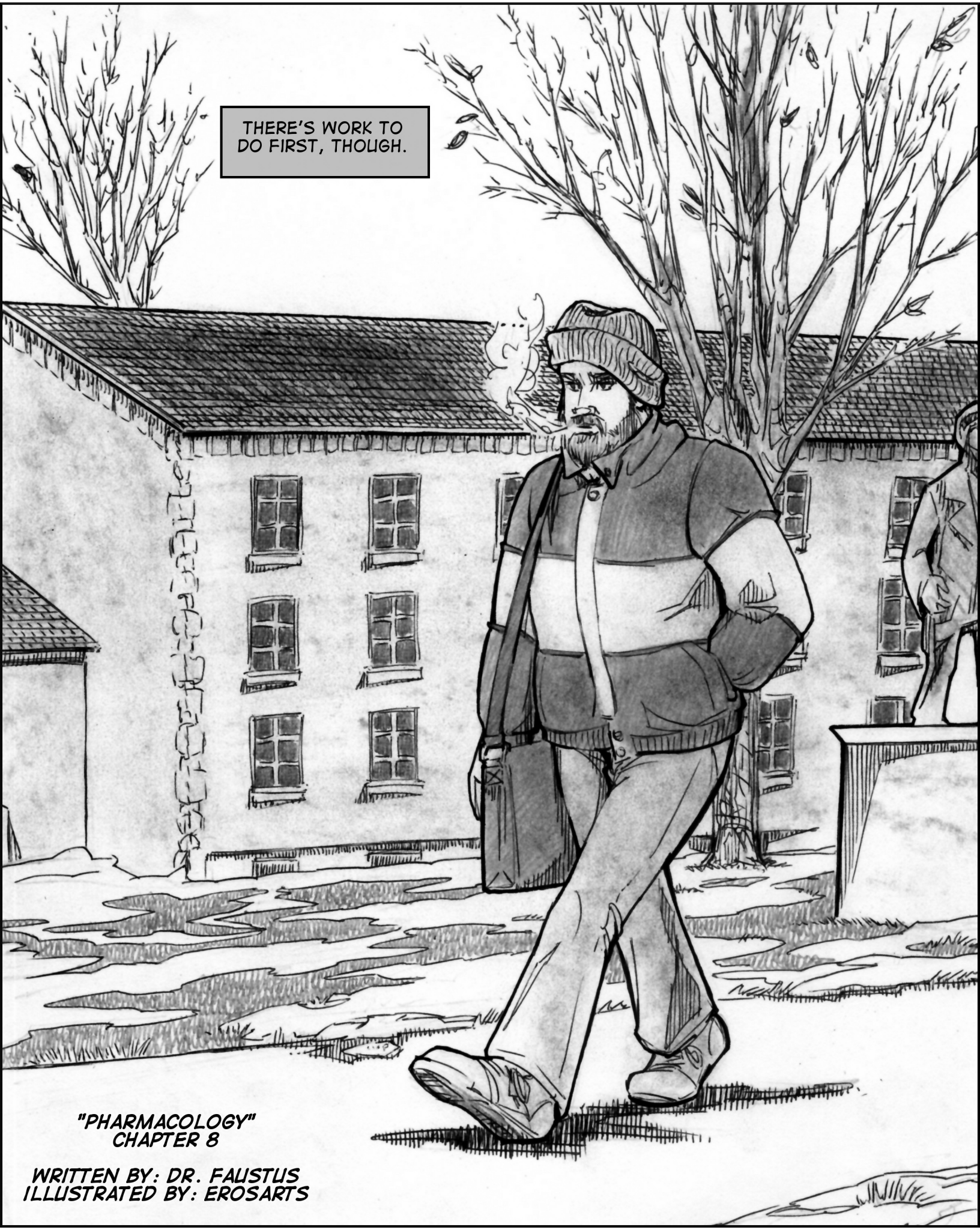

TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER VIII
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE CHAOS, A NEW LETTER FROM KARIN.


SHE SUGGESTS THAT I TRY TO VISIT HER IN MUNICH.
PERHAPS WORKING TOGETHER WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLVE SOME OF THE VERNON JACKSON MYSTERIES.


SHE ENCLOSES A PICTURE OF HERSELF. SHE'S... YOUNG AND PRETTY.


THAT'S SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE.
I'D LIKE TO VISIT YOU, KARIN.



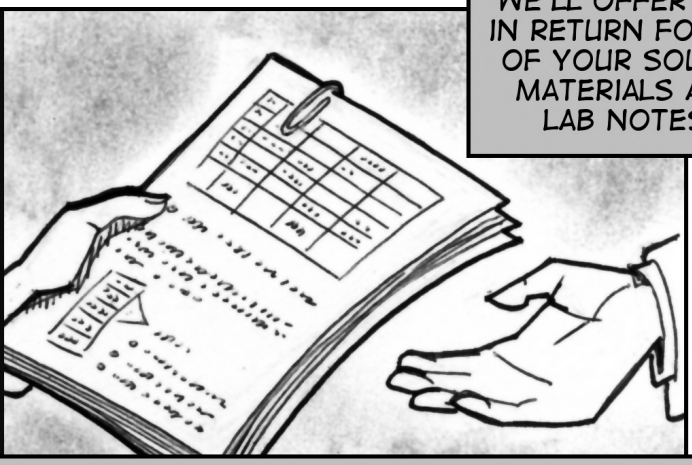
"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 8

WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS

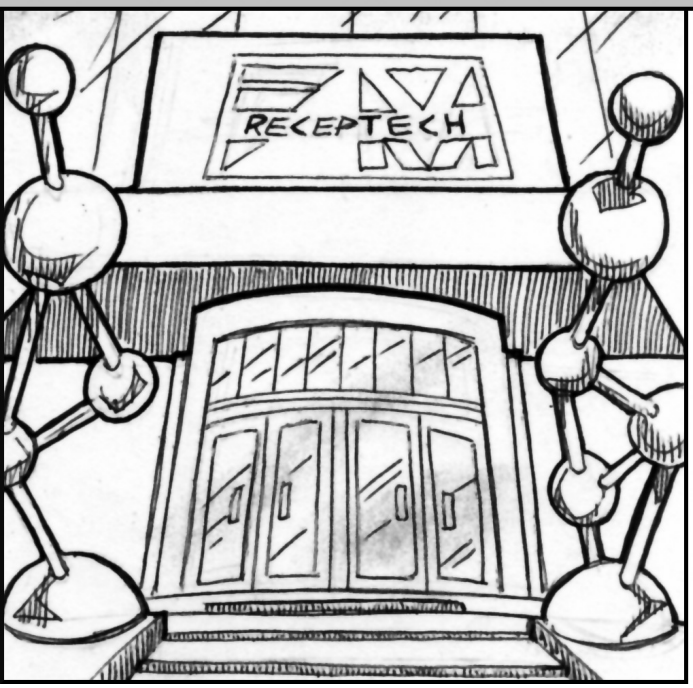

SCRRRSH!
DAMNIT, TAYLOR, CAN'T YOU WATCH...
THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU, MEDEA.
WHAT?
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD THROW ME OFF THE PATH WITH A BOWDLERIZED VERSION OF VERNON JACKSON'S NOTES.
AND YOU DID.
FOR A WHILE...
BUT AWARENESS OF YOUR... EXPERIMENTS HAS BEGUN LEAKING OUT.
AND NOW THERE ARE POWERFUL PEOPLE WHO WANT WHAT YOU HAVE. YOU'D BETTER GET READY...

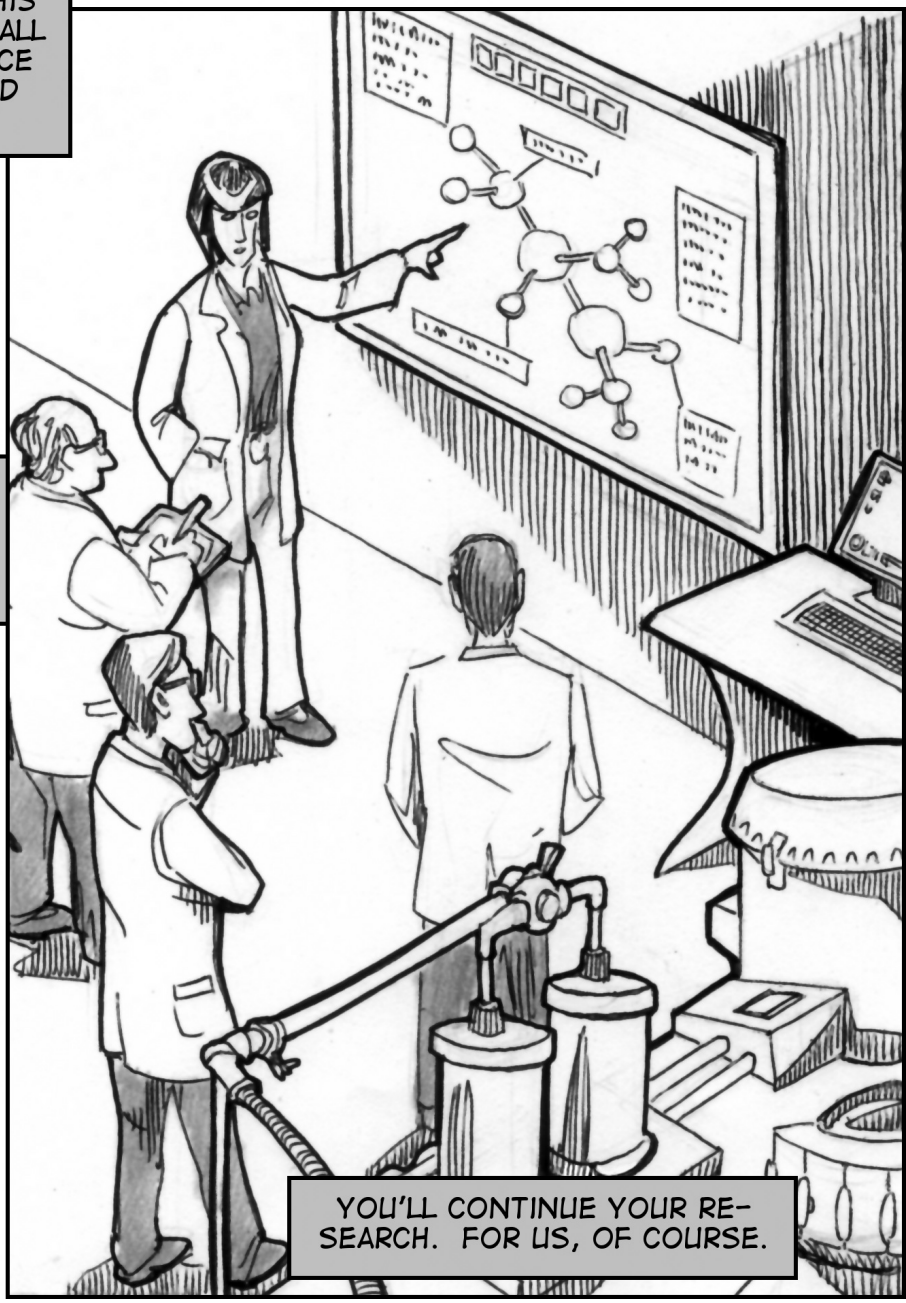

I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS.
PROFESSOR REBECCA WAITE THINKS YOU MIGHT HAVE SYNTHESIZED SOME NEW DRUGS.
PROFESSOR... WAITE?
WHAT NEW DRUGS?
SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GET READY?"



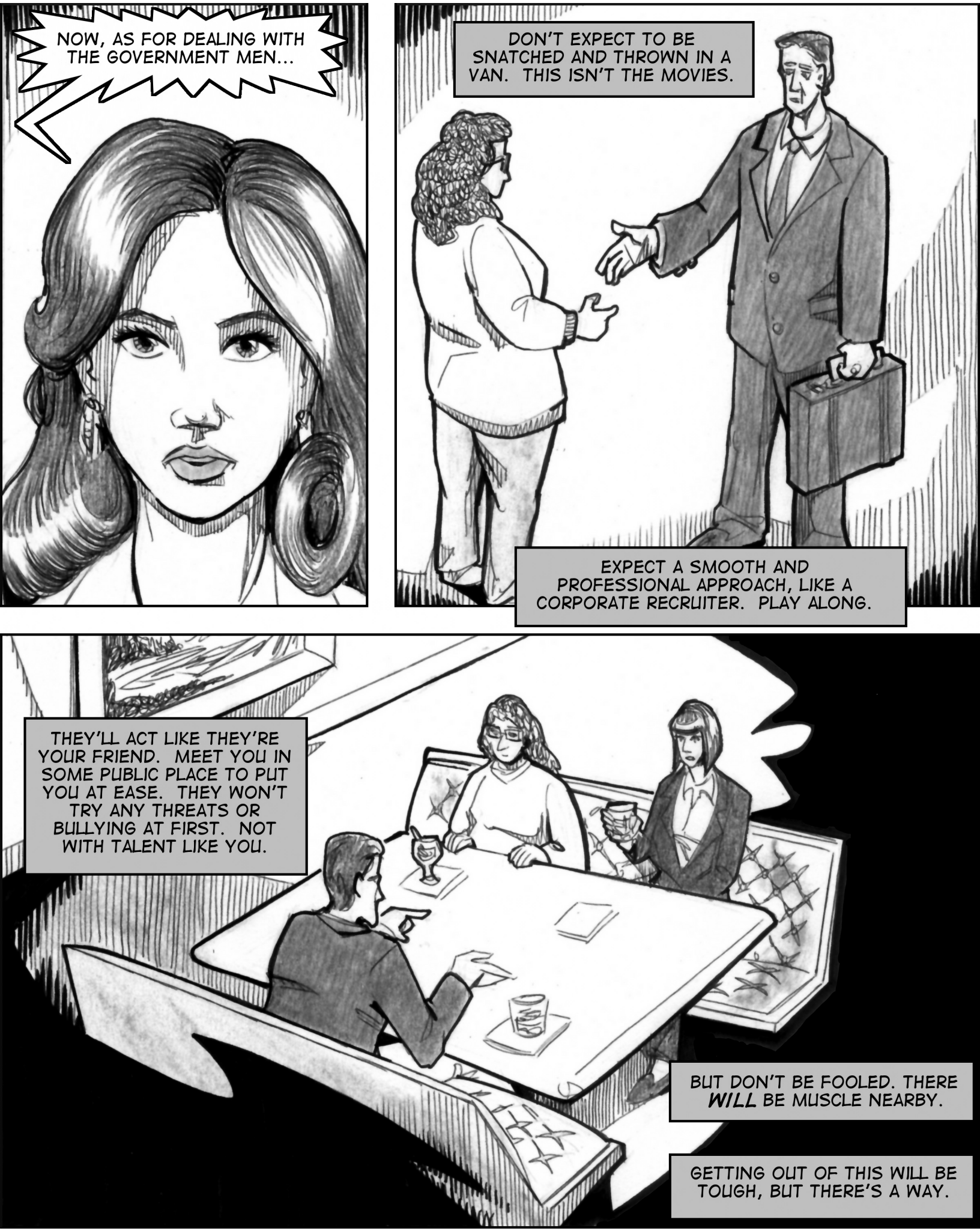


AFTER THE TWO OF YOU GRADUATE YOU WILL BEGIN A HIGH-TECH STARTUP, WITH OUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDING CAPITAL. IT CAN BE LOCATED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD YOU LIKE.

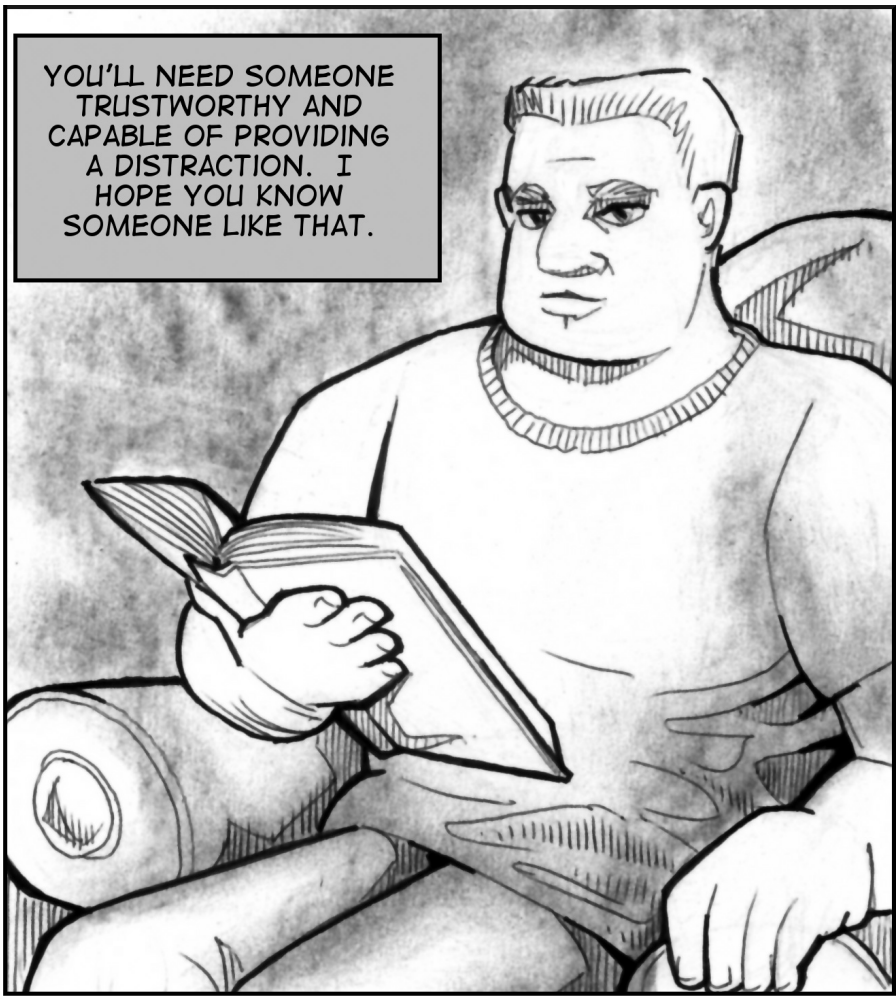





I'M NOT SURE THAT'S VERY...
YOU HAVE TWO POSSIBLE FUTURES AT THIS POINT, MS. FELDSTEIN...
EITHER BE A VERY HIGHLY COMPENSATED JUNIOR PARTNER IN A SEXY PHARMA STARTUP...
...OR SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DAYS AS THE GOVERNMENT'S CREATURE.
SO I GUESS WE DON'T GET TO RULE THE WORLD, AFTER ALL.
I'M IN BUSINESS. I DON'T GRANT WISHES. I CAN ONLY MAKE DEALS.

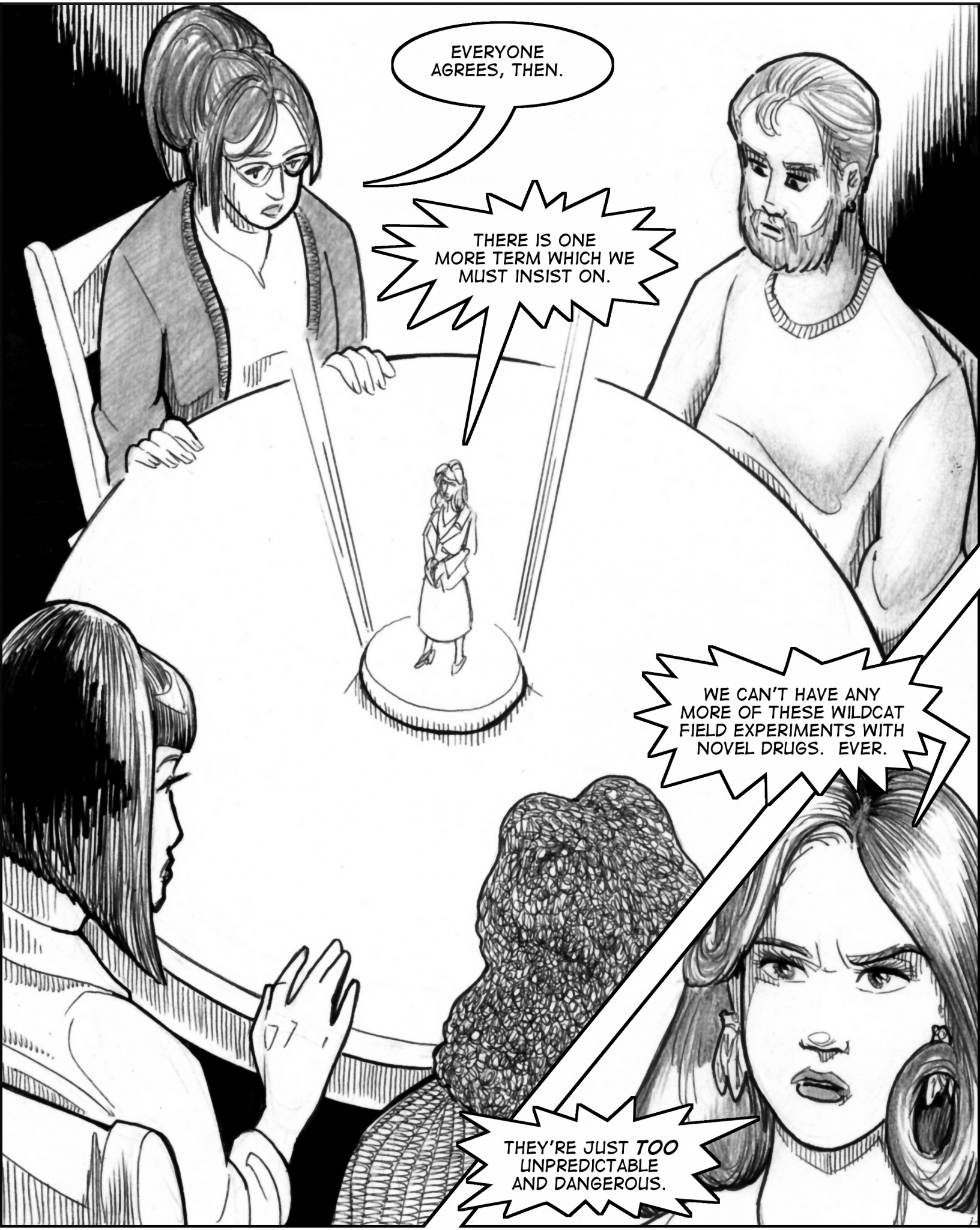

NOW, AS FOR DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT MEN...
DON'T EXPECT TO BE SNATCHED AND THROWN IN A VAN. THIS ISN'T THE MOVIES.
EXPECT A SMOOTH AND PROFESSIONAL APPROACH, LIKE A CORPORATE RECRUITER. PLAY ALONG.
THEY'LL ACT LIKE THEY'RE YOUR FRIEND. MEET YOU IN SOME PUBLIC PLACE TO PUT YOU AT EASE. THEY WON'T TRY ANY THREATS OR BULLYING AT FIRST. NOT WITH TALENT LIKE YOU.
BUT DON'T BE FOOLED. THERE *WILL* BE MUSCLE NEARBY.
GETTING OUT OF THIS WILL BE TOUGH, BUT THERE'S A WAY.

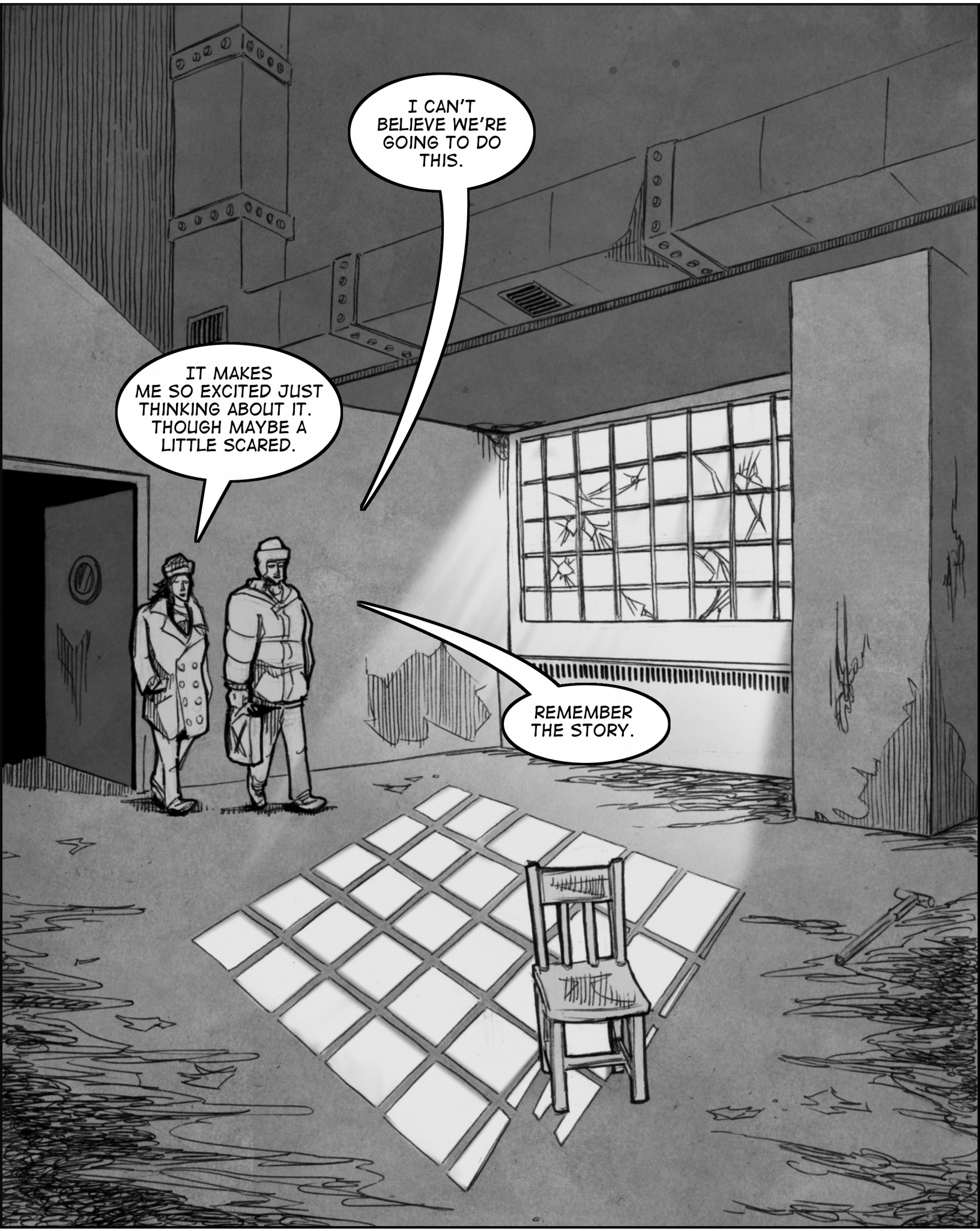

WE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH A RECIPE OF A DRUG OF OUR OWN. MS. FADIL WILL HAVE TO SOME *QUICK* LAB-WORK.


YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TRUSTWORTHY AND CAPABLE OF PROVIDING A DISTRACTION. I HOPE YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT.


YOU'LL NEED ONE OF THOSE OLD-FASHIONED FOUNTAIN PENS. THE SORT YOU FILL VIA LEVER.
INK


LUCKY FOR YOU THERE'S SOMEONE RIGHT NEAR CAMPUS WHO KNOWS HOW THEY WORK.
HE EVEN PICKED OUT THIS LOVELY OLD PEN...


EVERYONE AGREES, THEN.
THERE IS ONE MORE TERM WHICH WE MUST INSIST ON.
WE CAN'T HAVE ANY MORE OF THESE WILDCAT FIELD EXPERIMENTS WITH NOVEL DRUGS. EVER.
THEY'RE JUST *TOO* UNPREDICTABLE AND DANGEROUS.


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS.
IT MAKES ME SO EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT. THOUGH MAYBE A LITTLE SCARED.
REMEMBER THE STORY.


"THERE IS AN ANCIENT STORY THAT KING MIDAS HUNTED IN THE FOREST A LONG TIME FOR THE WISE SILENUS, THE COMPANION OF DIONYSUS, WITHOUT CAPTURING HIM. WHEN SILENUS AT LAST FELL INTO HIS HANDS, THE KING ASKED HIM WHAT THE BEST AND MOST DESIRABLE OF ALL THINGS FOR MAN WAS."
"FIXED AND IMMOVABLE, THE DEMIGOD SAID NOT A WORD, TILL AT LAST, URGED BY THE KIND, HE GAVE A SHRILL LAUGH AND BROKE OUT INTO THESE WORDS. 'OH WRETCHED, EPHEMERAL RACE, CHILDREN OF CHANCE AND MISERY, WHY DO YOU COMPEL ME TO TELL YOU WHAT IT WOULD BE MOST EXPEDIENT FOR YOU NOT TO HEAR?'"
"'WHAT IS BEST OF ALL IS UTTERLY BEYOND YOUR REACH: NOT TO BE BORN, NOT TO BE, TO BE NOTHING.'"
"'BUT THE SECOND BEST FOR YOU IS — TO DIE SOON.'"


THE FIRST REVELATION IS THAT WE DO NOT ENJOY LIFE, BUT FEAR DEATH.
THE SECOND IS THAT DEATH IS NOT TO BE FEARED, BUT THAT ONLY SACRED DRUGS, NOT REASON, CAN DELIVER US FROM THAT FEAR.

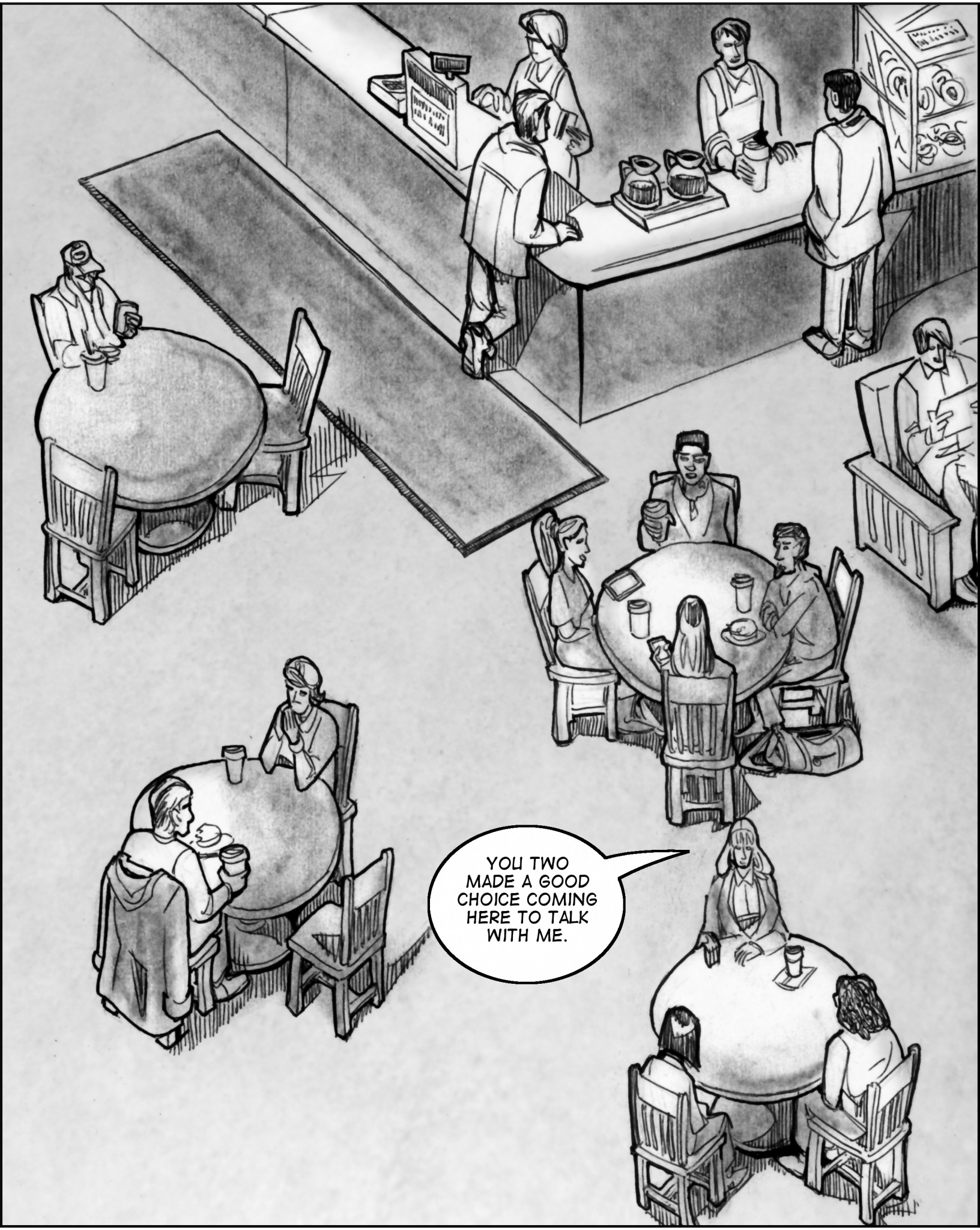

PLEASURE CAN BE OURS.


VOLUPTAS IN EXCELSIS.


SKKRTCH

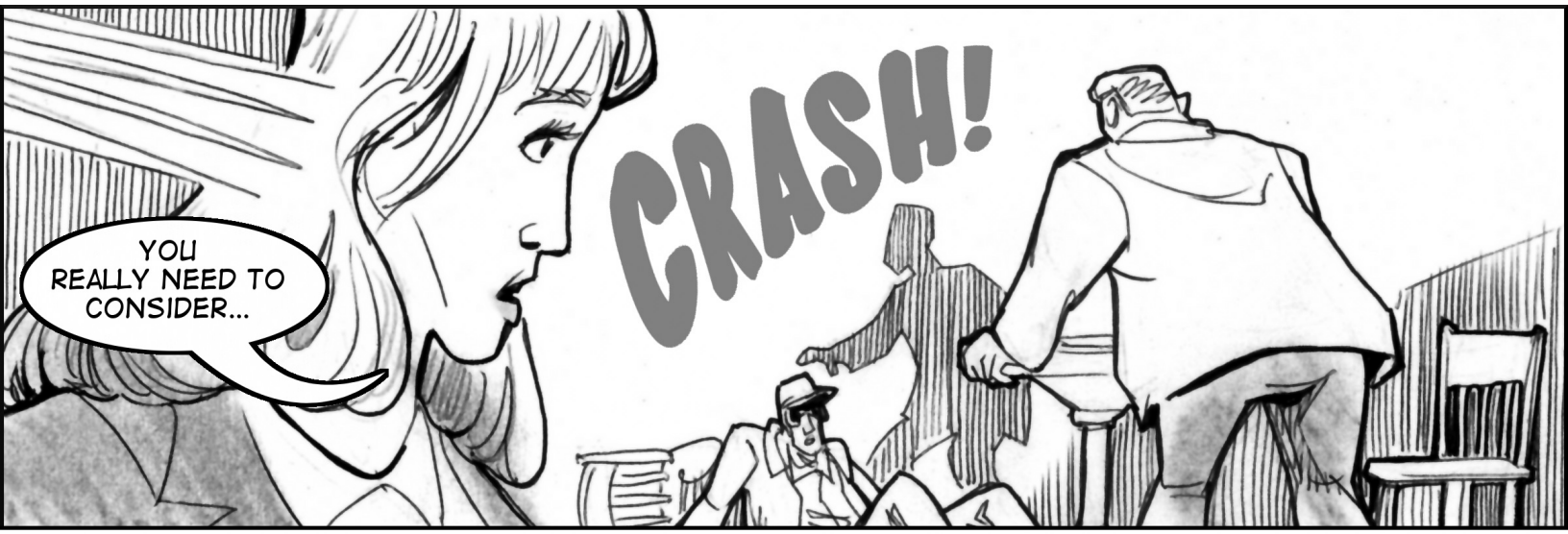
"...HOW MANY WOULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF EXTINCTION ONCE EUTHANASIA WAS DECRIMINALIZED AND OFFERED IN HUMANE AND EVEN ENJOYABLE WAYS?" -- THOMAS LIGOTTI, *THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE*

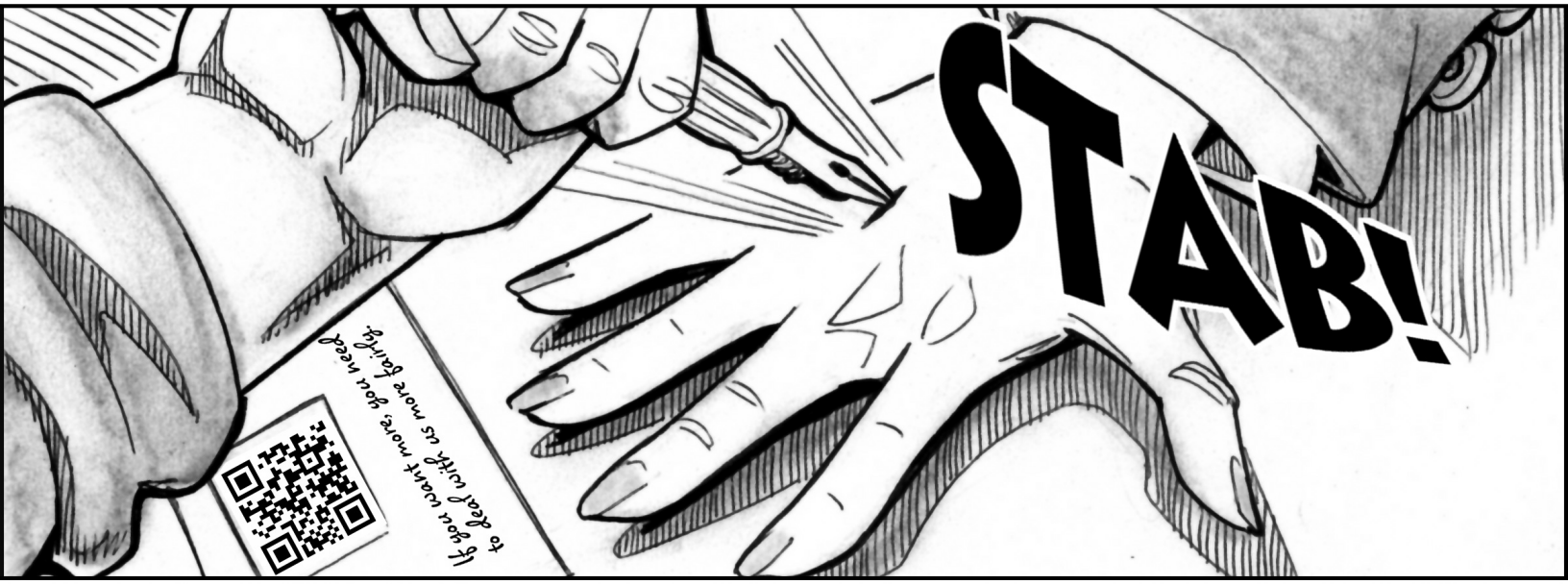



YOU TWO MADE A GOOD CHOICE COMING HERE TO TALK WITH ME.


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, MS. THORNE?
YOU'VE MADE SOME SERIOUS ERRORS OF JUDGMENT IN SOME OF YOUR... SCIENCE.
WE HAVE SOME DOCUMENTATION.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S LOTS IN THERE YOU WOULDN'T WANT COMING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.
BUT, WITH THE RIGHT COOPERATION FROM BOTH OF YOU, WE COULD MAKE THAT ALL GO AWAY.


WHO HERE LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE NOT FROM GNOSIS?
THAT JOKER, THERE.
HEY, BUDDY, MY GIRLFRIEND AND I ARE GOING TO NEED THIS TABLE. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO MOVE...
FUCK YOU, BRUH.
KA PUNCH!
NOBODY AT GNOSIS USES A STUPID WORD LIKE "BRUH."


YOU REALLY NEED TO CONSIDER...
CRASH!


STAB!
If you want more, you need to deal with us more boldly.


HOLY CRAP HE HAS A GUN!
WHAT...?

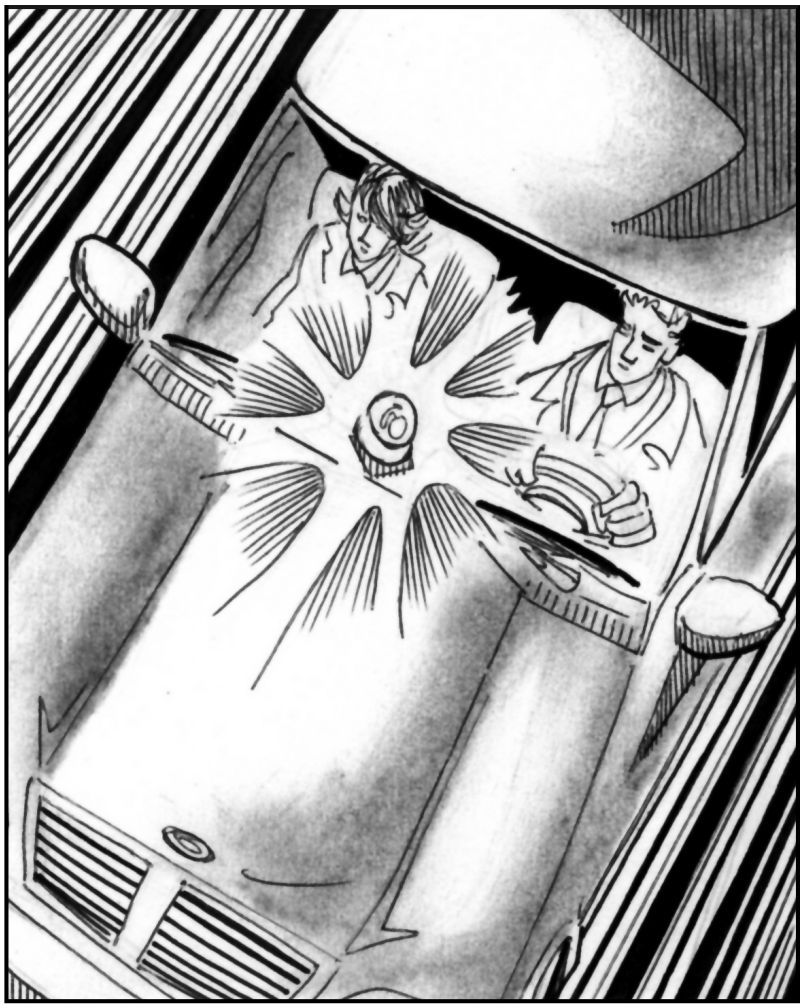

OHHHHH...

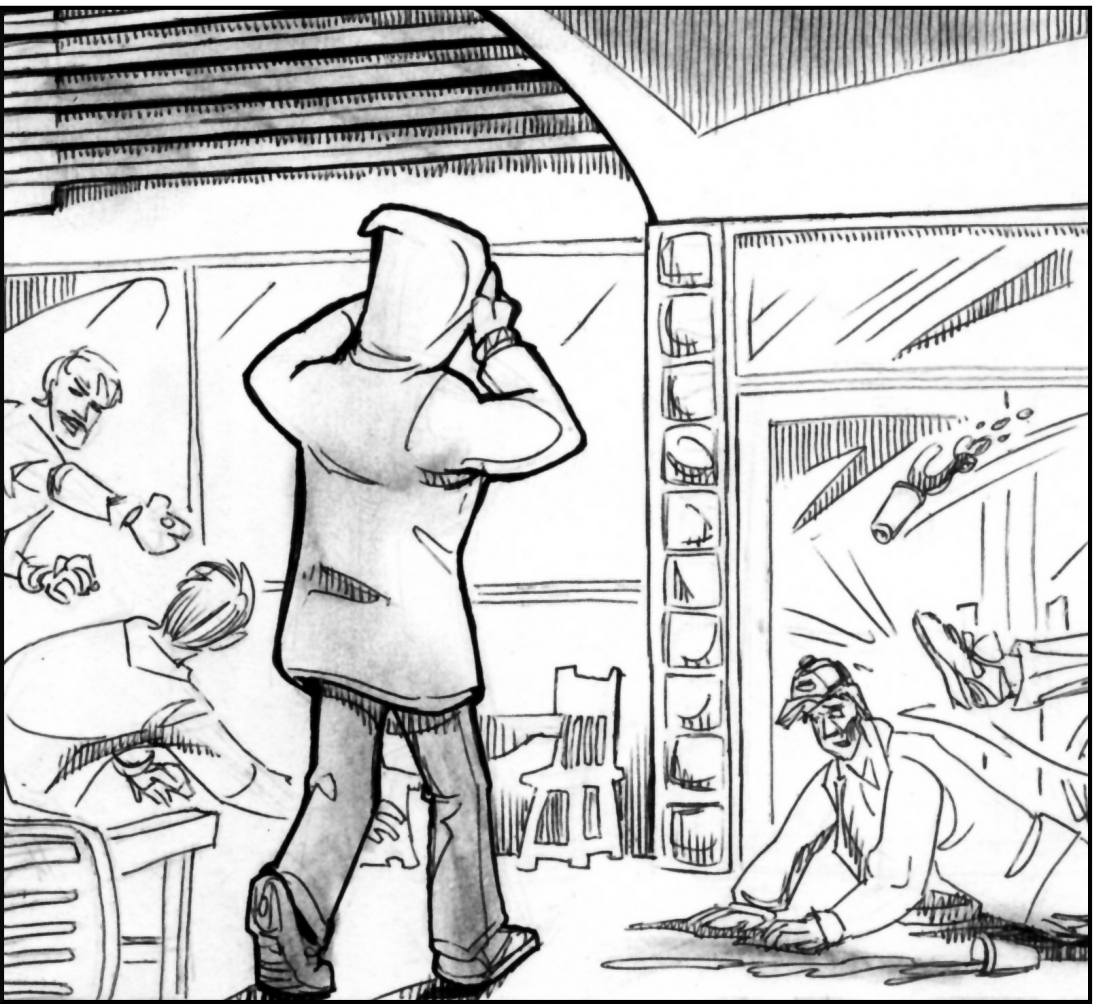

DRINKS
HOLY CRAP! HE HAS A GUN!


AAAH!
SPLASH!
MOTHERFUCKER BROUGHT A GUN! ONTO *OUR* CAMPUS!
WE NEED TO MAKE A STATEMENT HERE...
LET'S FUCK HIS SHIT UP.


TAKE YOUR "SECOND AMENDMENT SOLUTIONS" AND CRAM THEM BACK UP YOUR ASS!
FUCKING RIGHT-WING TROG!
NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME FOR THAT DISCREET EXIT WE DISCUSSED.
CHOCK!
WHEEE...


...EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE...RIOT AT GNOSIS COLLEGE...








NOT TOO MUCH FURTHER NOW...
FREEZE!
PUT YOUR HANDS UP WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
SCREEE!
OH FUCK OH FUCK OH FUCK OH FUCK OH...
FEDERAL OFFICERS! PUT YOUR WEAPON DOWN, NOW!


WELL. ISN'T THIS NICE.


=GROAN=


If you want more, you need to deal with us more fairly.
OP3: HAVE A STANDOFF WITH L.E. ADVISE...

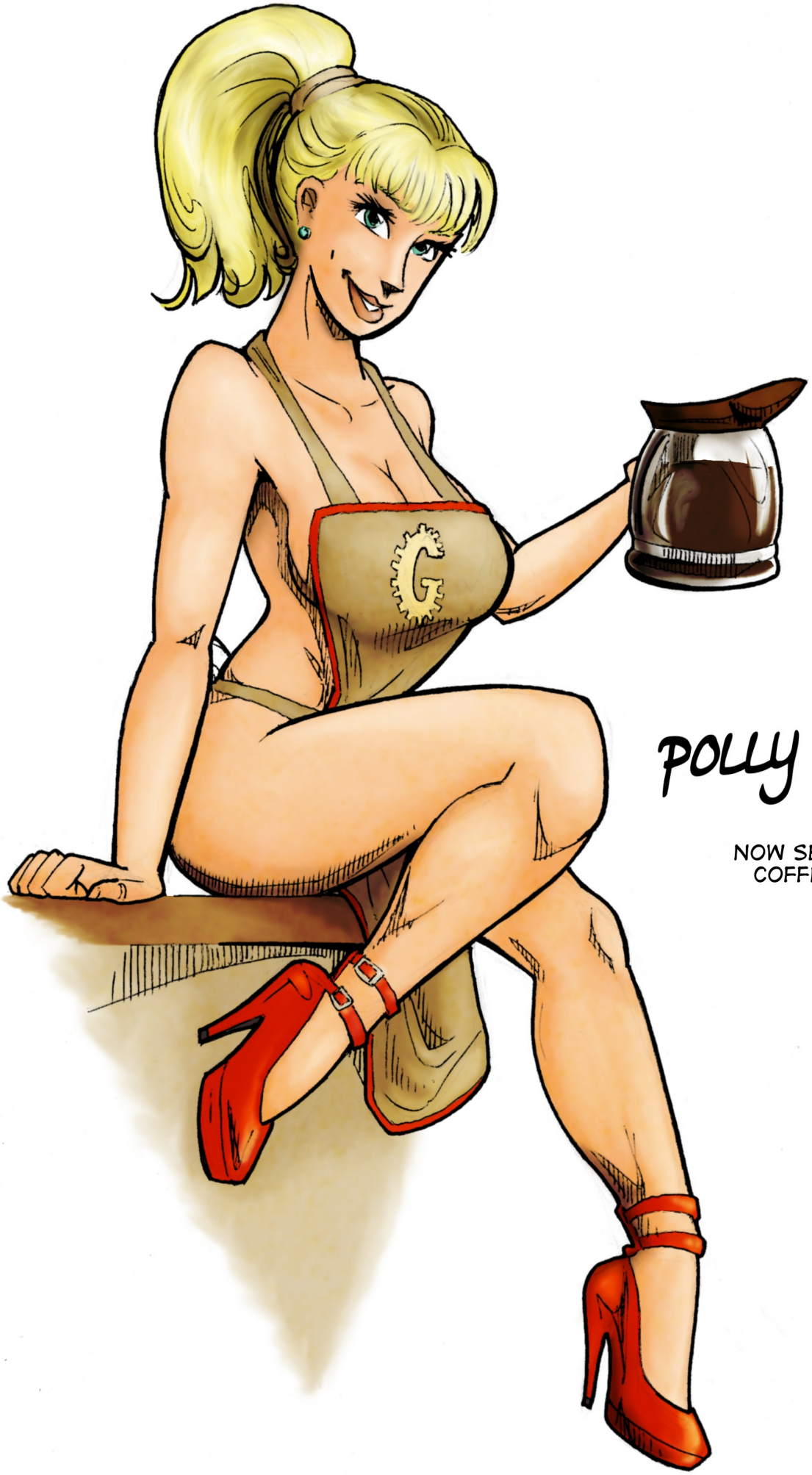

THORNE: STAND DOWN AND SURRENDER WILL SORT OUT


MA'AM, WE HAVE ORDERS TO BRING YOU OUT OF HERE.
OP3: ACK


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SURRENDERED EVERYONE IN THAT STANDOFF TO THAT WOMAN, SPECIAL AGENT SMITH.
I LEARNED VERY EARLY IN MY CAREER THERE'S NO FUTURE IN BATTLING THESE NATIONAL SECURITY CREEPS, SPECIAL AGENT ONG.
THEY HAVE VERY SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE WORLD.
...and now begins the final drama, in the streets and in the fields...
ARE THOSE RIOT ARRESTEES... SINGING, SPECIAL AGENT SMITH?
...we stand unbowed before their armor, we defy their guns and shields!
WHO SAYS TODAY'S STUDENTS ARE ALL APATHETIC, SPECIAL AGENT ONG?


"TWO DEAD IN POSSIBLE ARSON MURDER-SUICIDE." WHAT THE HELL?
STUDENT RIOT
LET ME SEE! LET ME SEE!
I'M NOT SURE THAT THIS IS APPROPRIATE FOR A LITTLE KID...
I'M NOT A "LITTLE KID."
WHAT ARE YOU THEN?
ASK ME SOMETIME AND I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
WELL, AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS MIGHT BE WORKING OUT FOR YOUR "NOT FRIENDS."

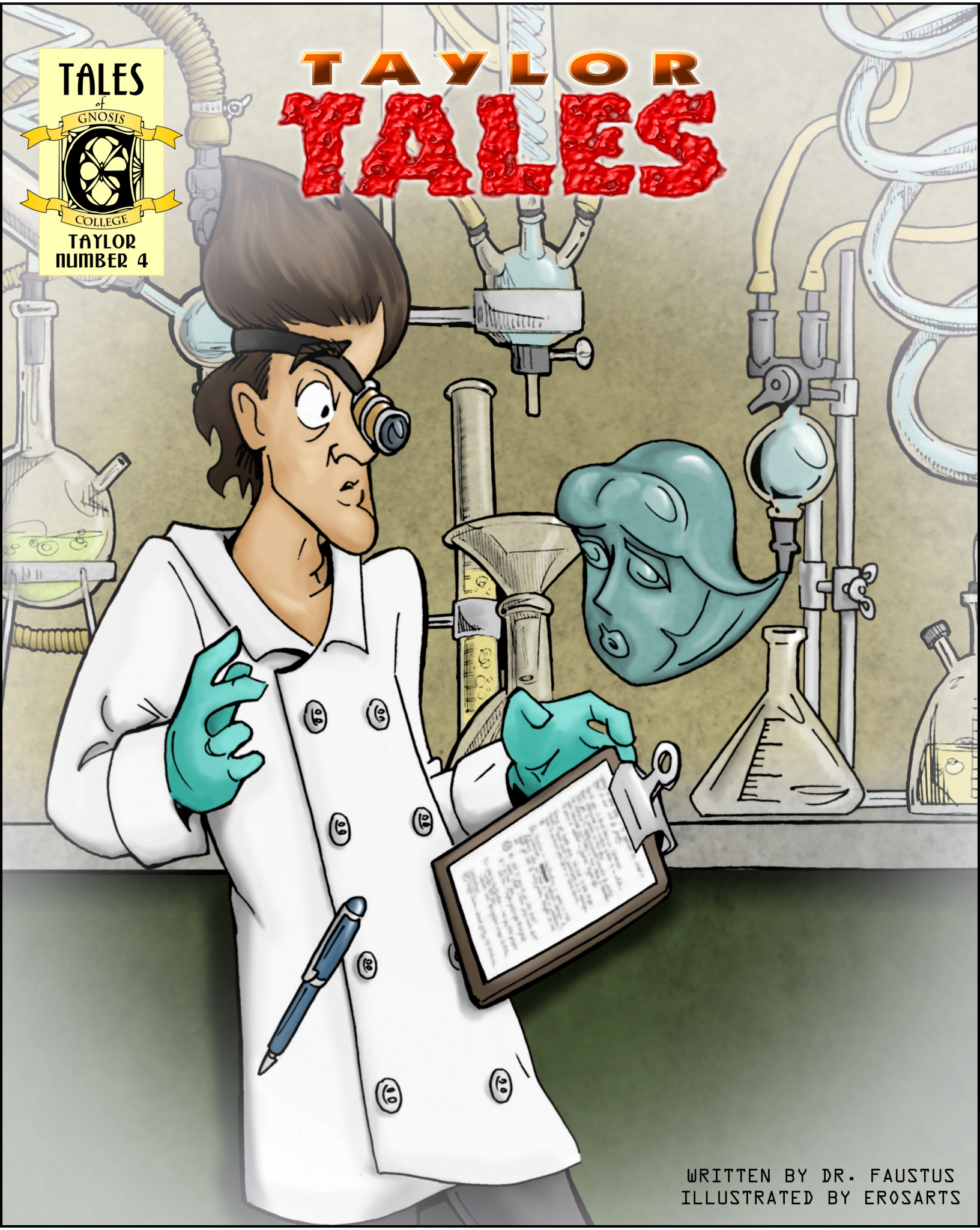

I WANT MORE... PLEASE... WHAT IS "FAIR?"
WELL, MADAM, IT IS LIKE THIS...



WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

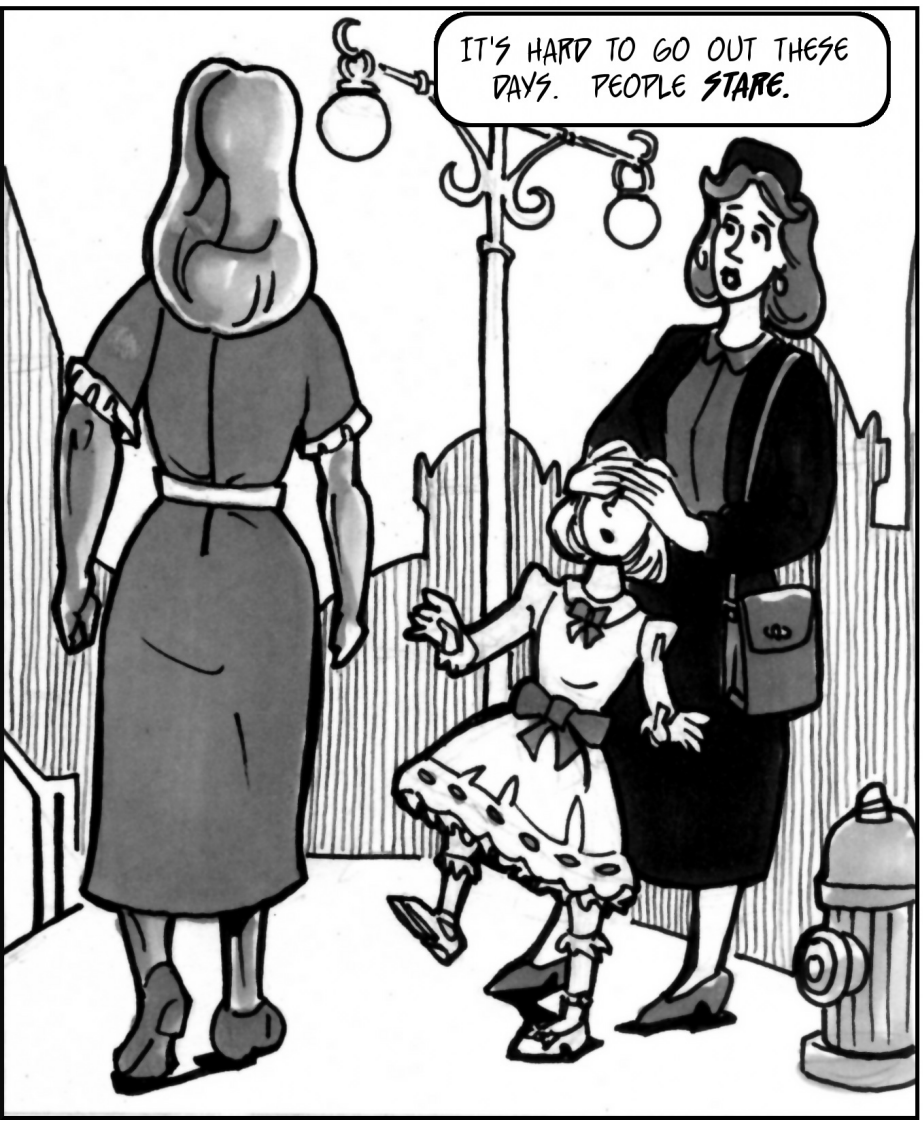
POLLY MONAGHAN

NOW SERVING BOTTOMLESS COFFEE AT THE GADGET!

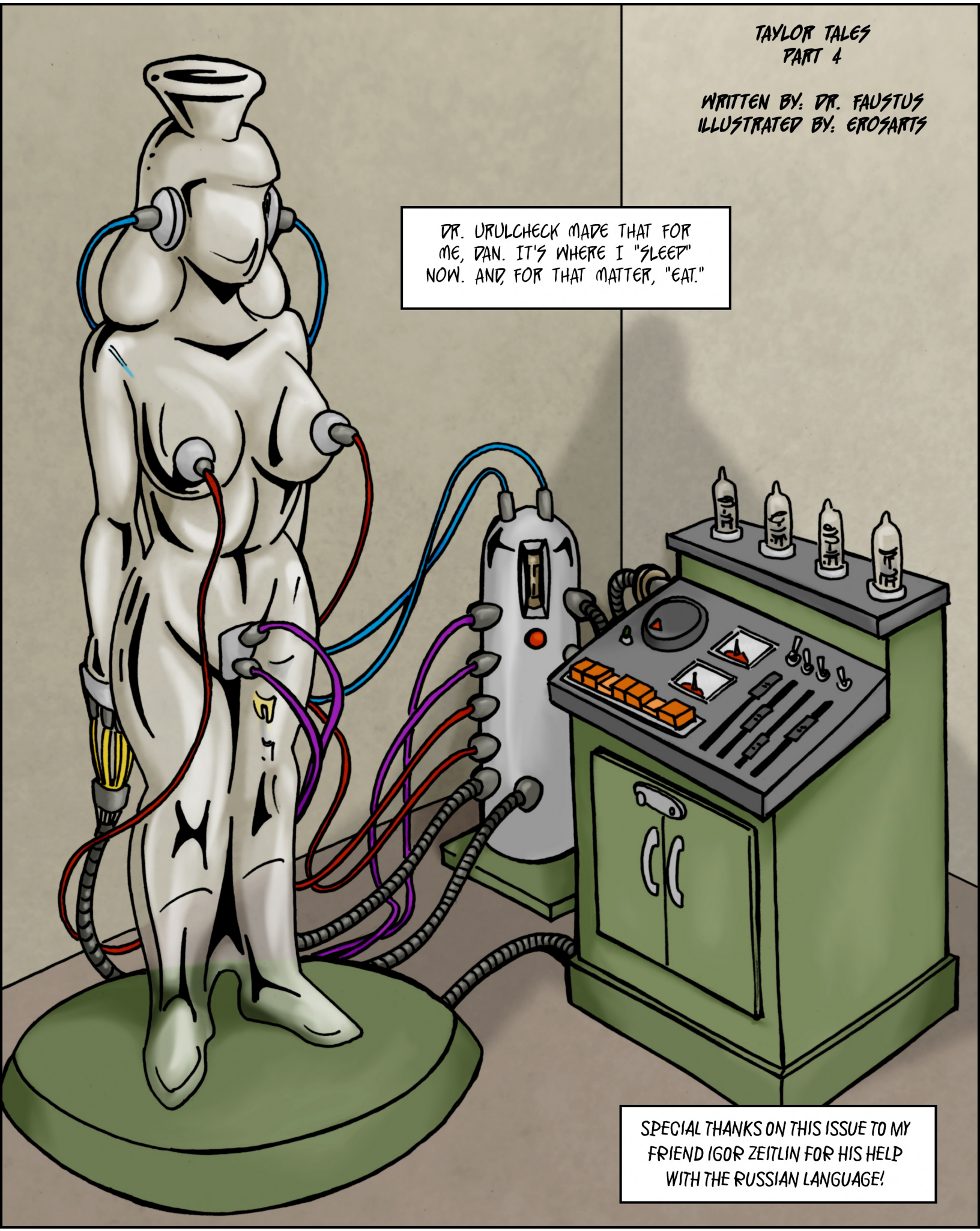

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
TAYLOR NUMBER 4
TAYLOR TALES
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


HELLO, DAN. THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE ME.
WON'T YOU COME IN?

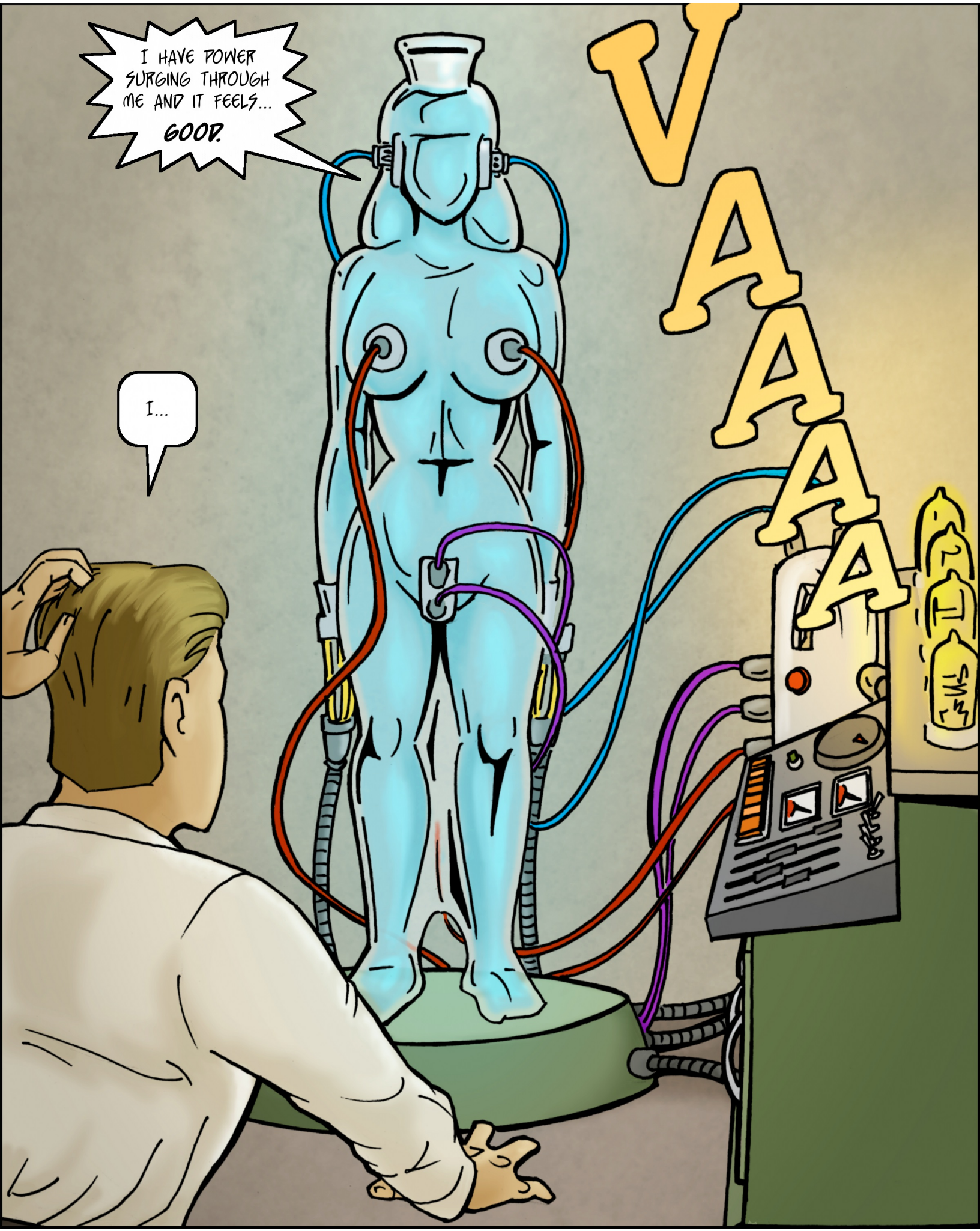

SO BETSY, THIS IS WHERE THEY HAVE YOU LIVING NOW?
THE COLLEGE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO HELP MOVE MY BOOKS. THEY MAKE GOOD COMPANIONS.


IT'S HARD TO GO OUT THESE DAYS. PEOPLE *STARE.*


ASIDE FROM READING AND DOING TESTS WITH DR. URULCHECK THERE'S NOT MUCH TO DO...
WHAT IS *THAT* THING?


TAYLOR TALES
PART 4
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS
DR. URULCHECK MADE THAT FOR ME, DAN. IT'S WHERE I "SLEEP" NOW. AND, FOR THAT MATTER, "EAT."
SPECIAL THANKS ON THIS ISSUE TO MY FRIEND IGOR ZEITLIN FOR HIS HELP WITH THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE!


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
LET ME SHOW YOU.
I CAN'T PROCESS ORDINARY FOOD ANYMORE. I RELY ON STORED ELECTRICAL ENERGY TO SURVIVE.
TIME IN THIS CHAMBE MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME TO KEEP MY FORM. DR. URULCHEK CALLS IT "AN ANALOGUE OF MUSCLE MEMORY."
THE WIRES HELP ME TO RECHARGE.

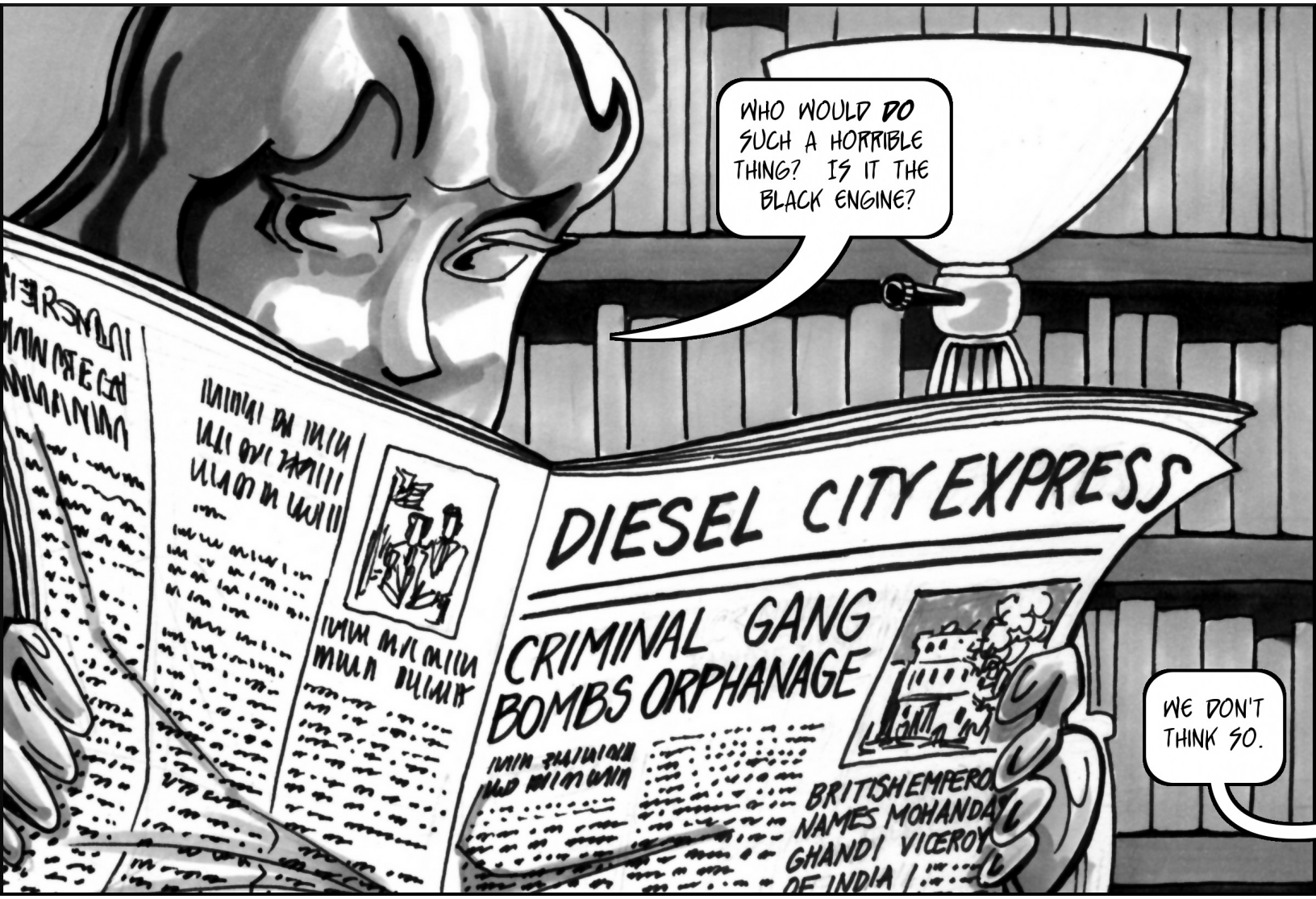

I HAVE POWER SURGING THROUGH ME AND IT FEELS... GOOD.
I...
VAAAA


HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU, DAN.


I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER. BUT I'M A TERRIBLE HOSTESS.
LET ME GET DRESSED AND OFFER YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK.


YOU DON'T DRINK ANYTHING, EITHER?
I CAN, BUT ALCOHOL MESSES UP MY ABILITY TO KEEP MY FORM.

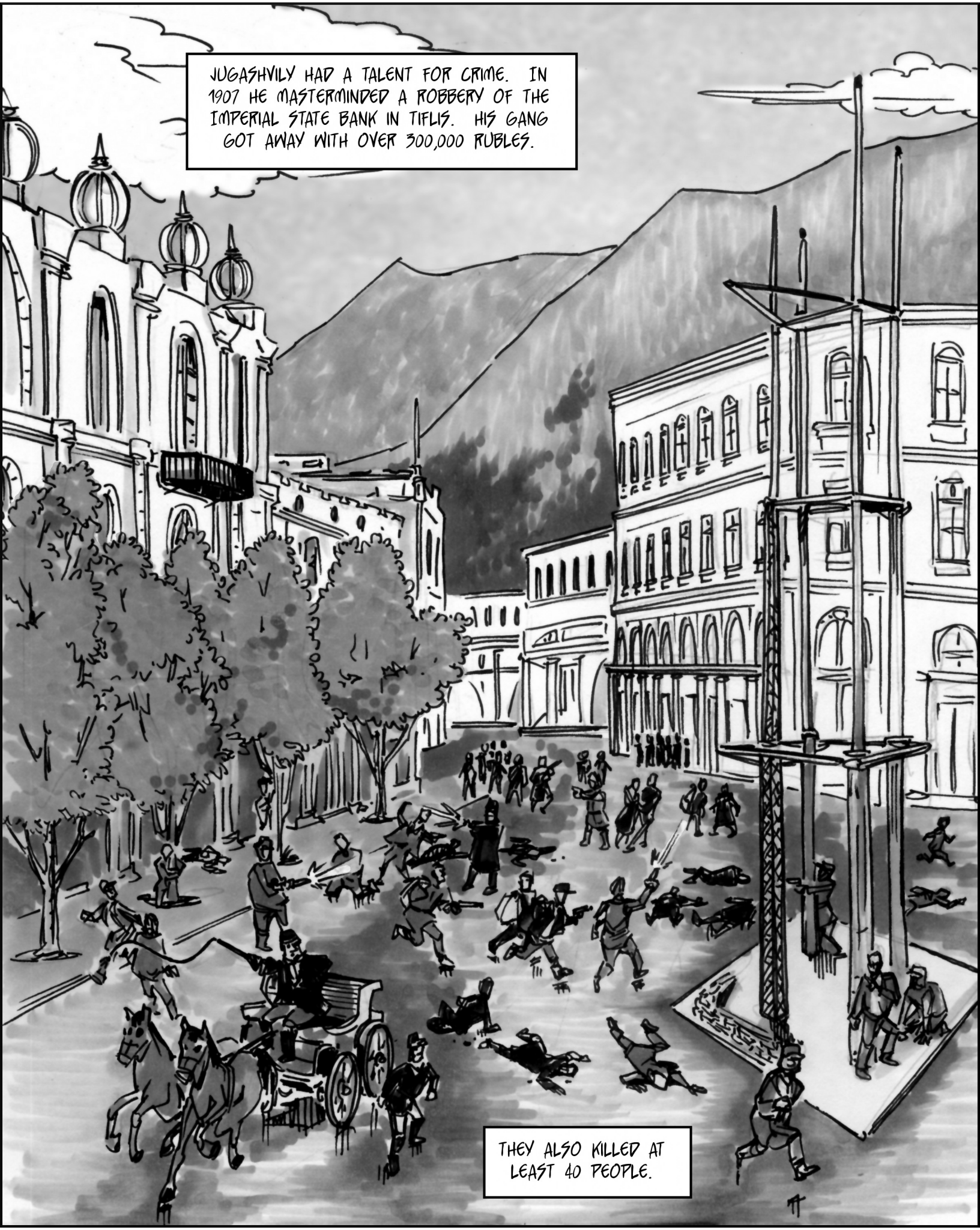

SOMETHING WRONG, DAN?
I BROUGHT TODAY'S NEWSPAPER.

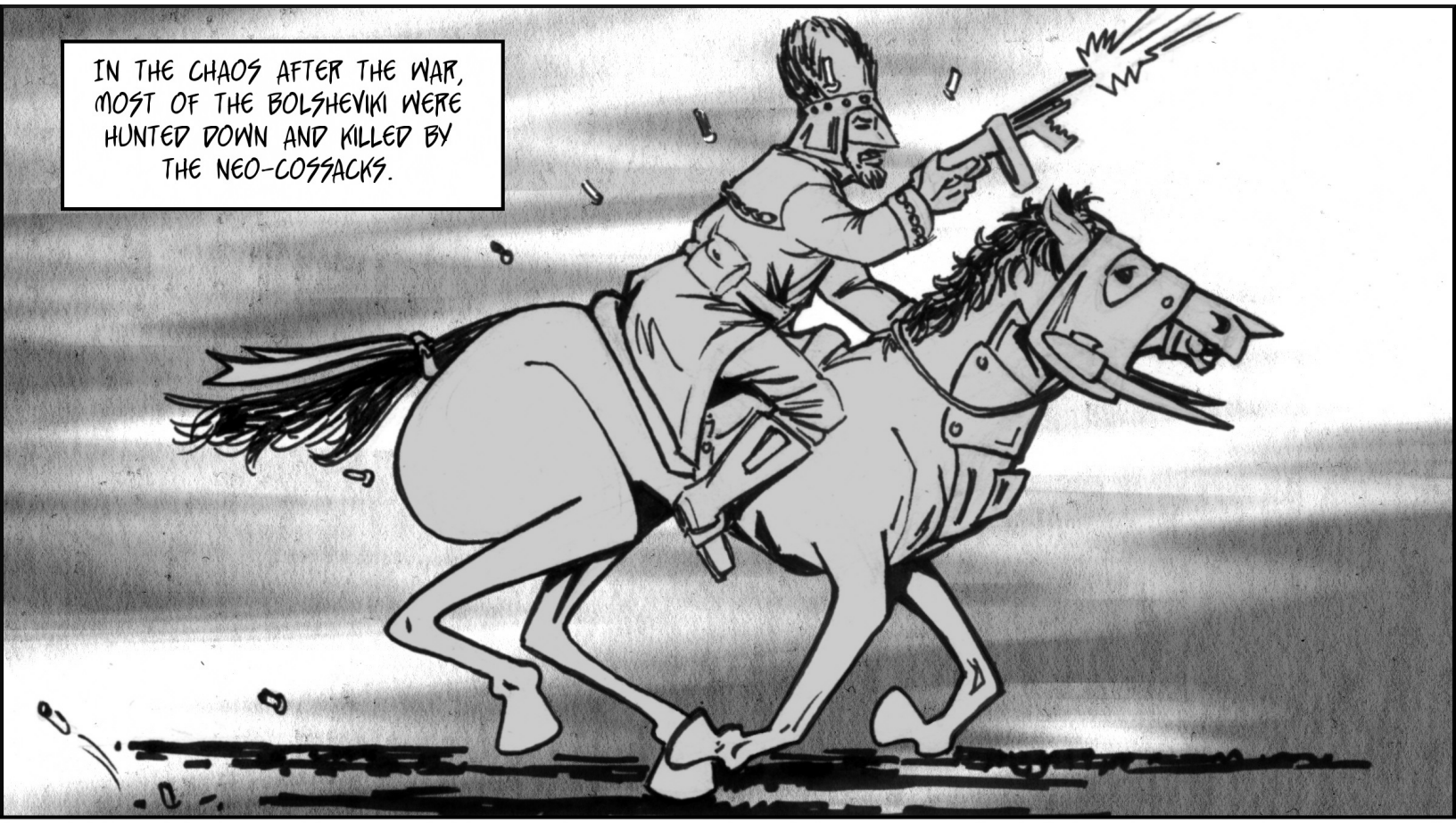




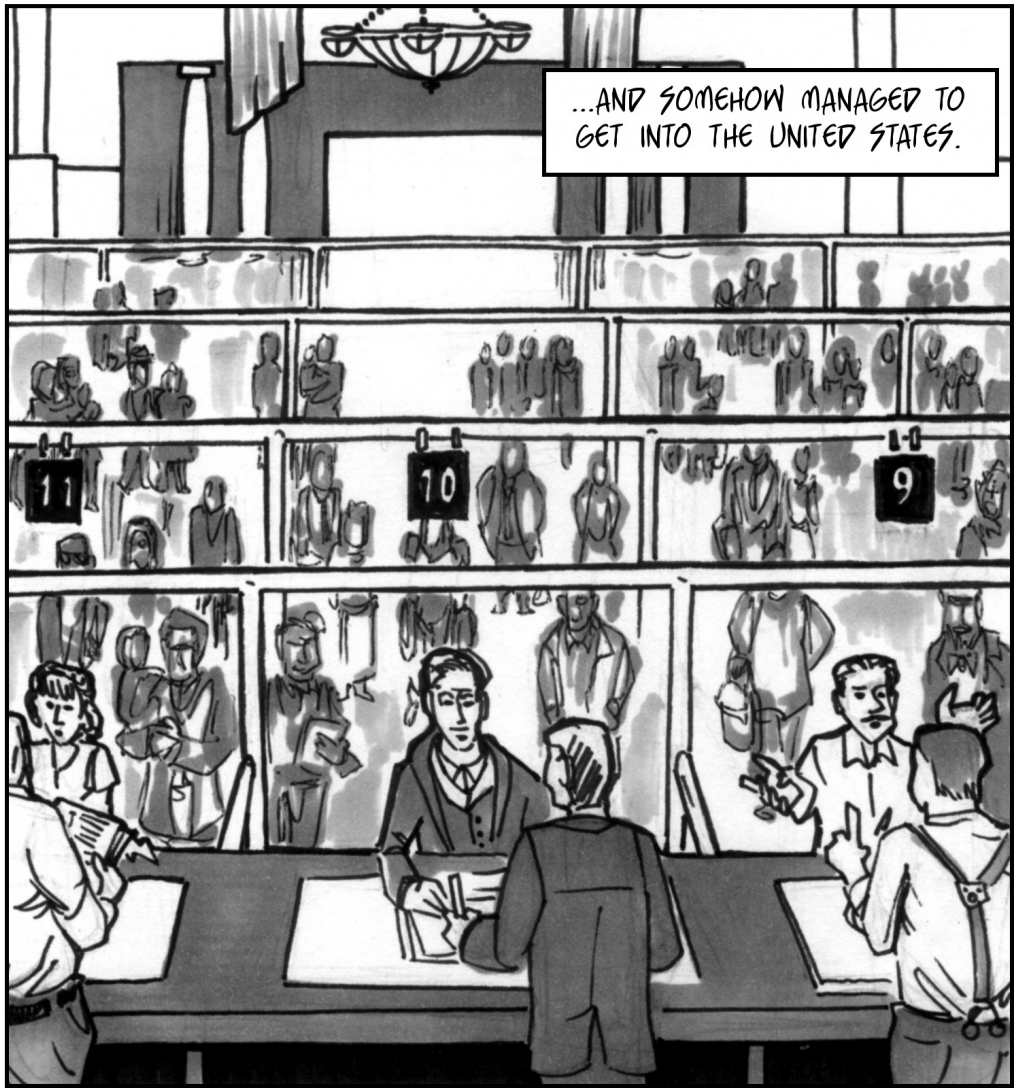


IT STARTED BACK IN IMPERIAL RUSSIA, BEFORE THE GREAT PRUSSIAN WAR. THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN NAMED JOSEPH JUGASHVILY. HE WAS A MEMBER OF A TINY TERRORIST SECT CALLED THE "BOLSHEVIKI."


JUGASHVILY HAD A TALENT FOR CRIME. IN 1907 HE MASTERMINDED A ROBBERY OF THE IMPERIAL STATE BANK IN TIFLIS. HIS GANG GOT AWAY WITH OVER 300,000 RUBLES.
THEY ALSO KILLED AT LEAST 40 PEOPLE.

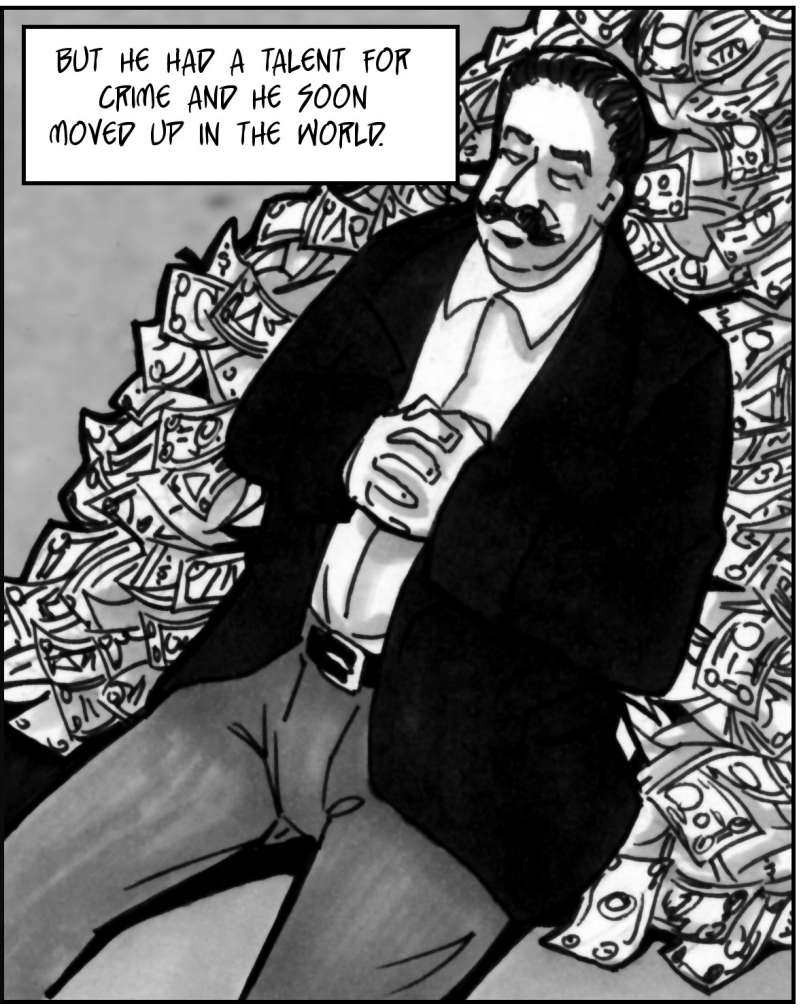

IN THE CHAOS AFTER THE WAR, MOST OF THE BOLSHEVIKI WERE HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED BY THE NEO-COSSACKS.

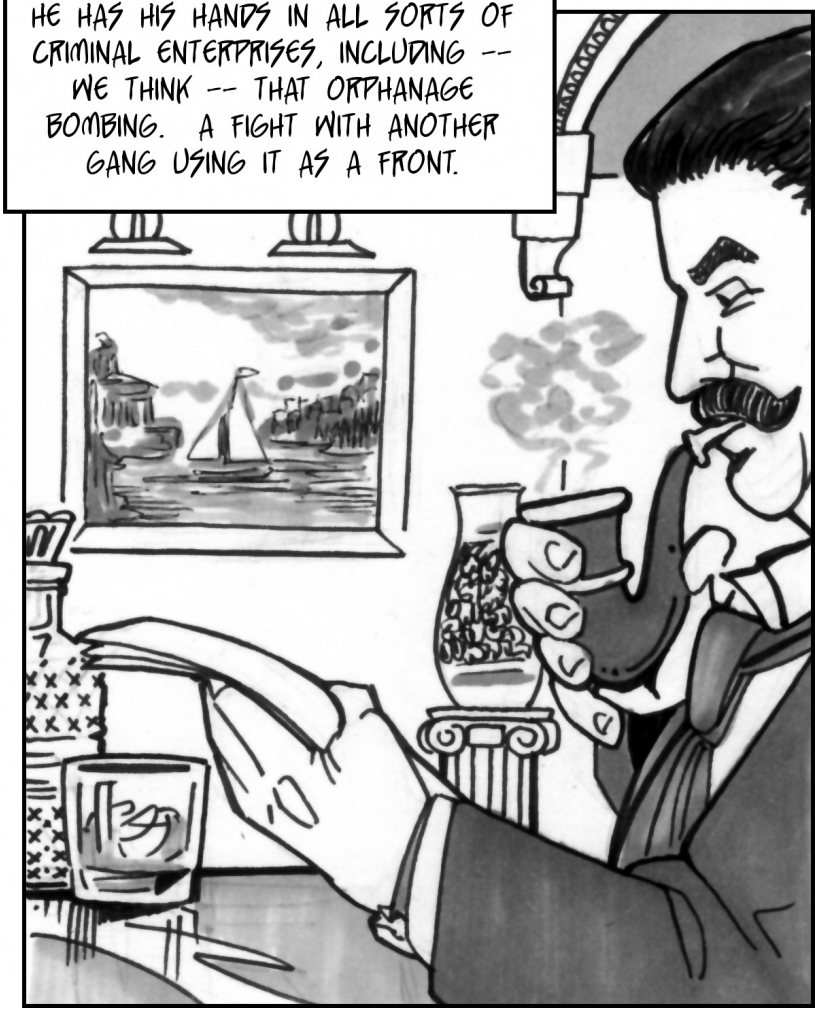

BUT SOMEHOW JUGASHVILY MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY...

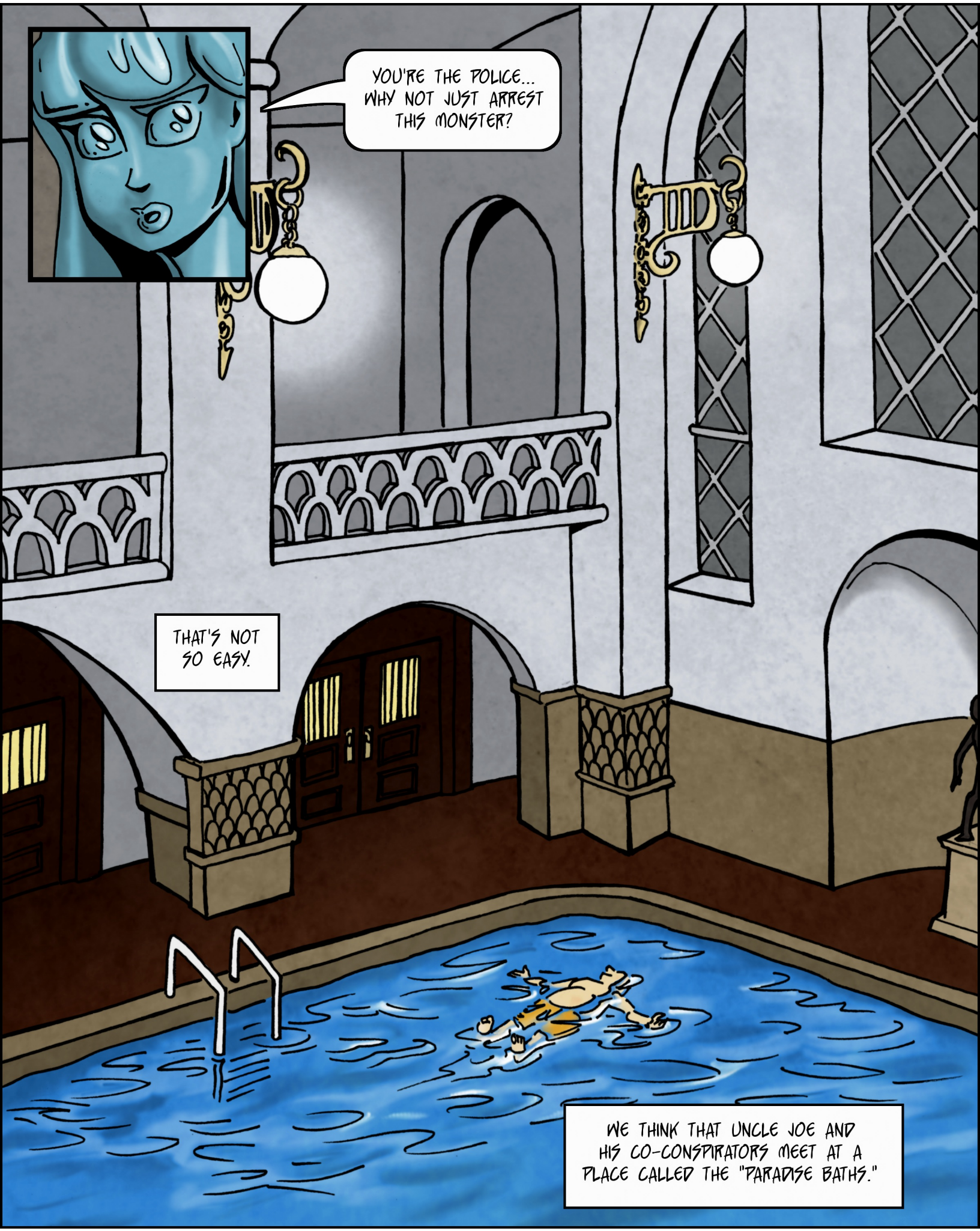

...AND SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET INTO THE UNITED STATES.
11
10
9

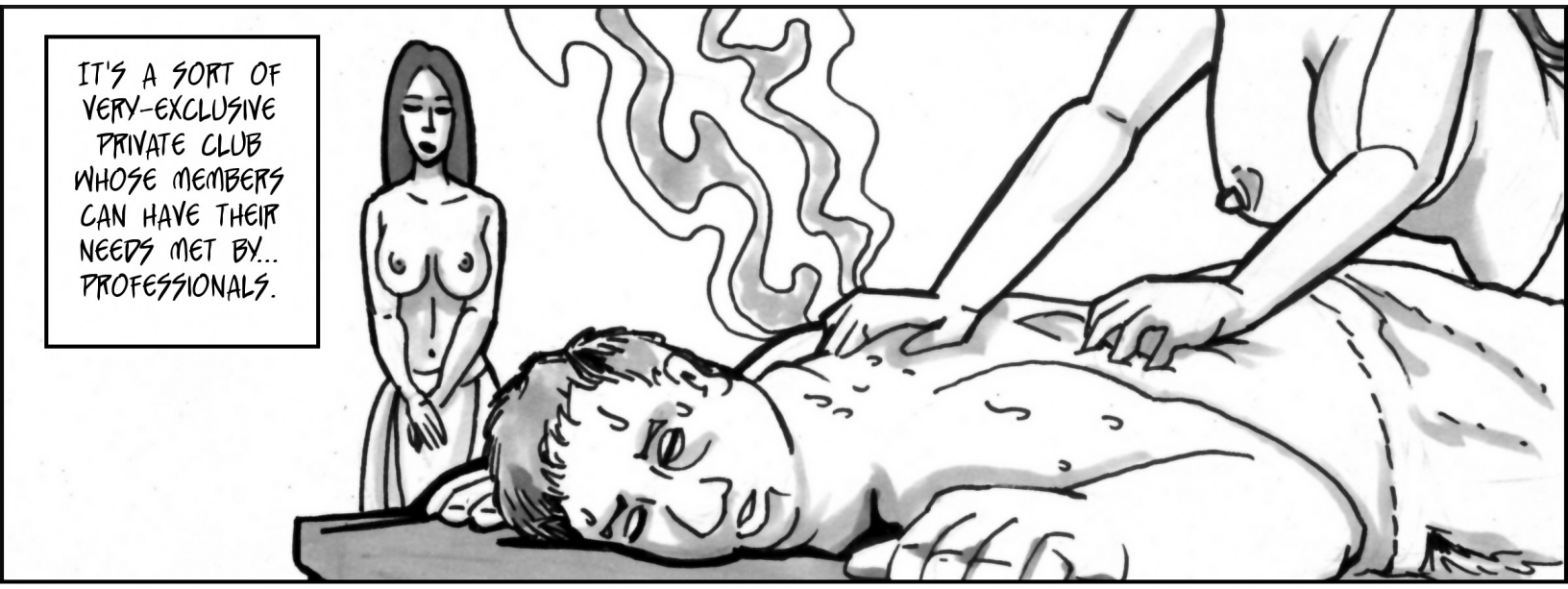

ONCE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA, "UNCLE JOE" SOON ASSEMBLED A GANG AND SET HIMSELF UP IN A LIFE OF CRIME.
VC


HE STARTED SMALL WITH PETTY EXTORTIONS AND SHAKEDOWNS.
NEWSTA


BUT HE HAD A TALENT FOR CRIME AND HE SOON MOVED UP IN THE WORLD.


HE HAS HIS HANDS IN ALL SORTS OF CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING -- WE THINK -- THAT ORPHANAGE BOMBING. A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER GANG USING IT AS A FRONT.


YOU'RE THE POLICE... WHY NOT JUST ARREST THIS MONSTER?
THAT'S NOT SO EASY.
WE THINK THAT UNCLE JOE AND HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS MEET AT A PLACE CALLED THE "PARADISE BATHS."


IT'S A SORT OF VERY-EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE CLUB WHOSE MEMBERS CAN HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET BY... PROFESSIONALS.

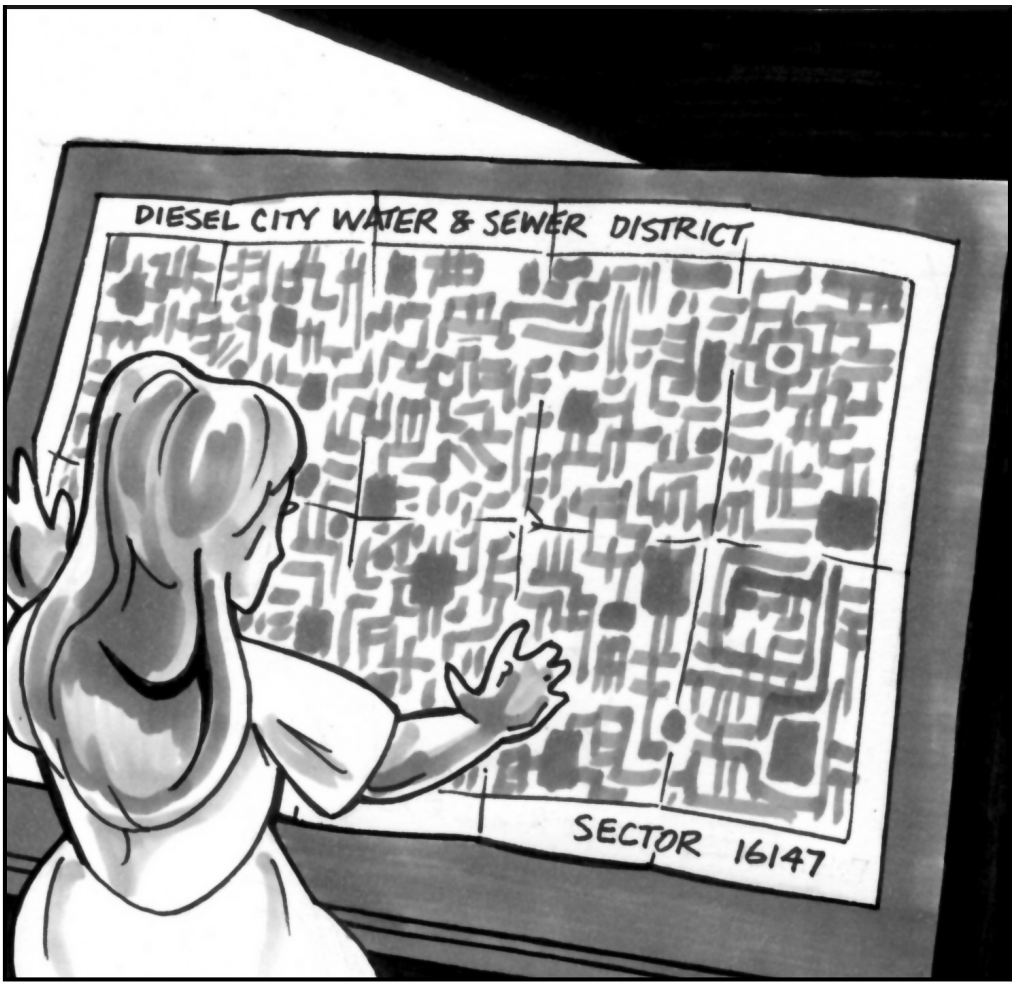

MEMBERS ARE VERY CAREFULLY VETTED AND THEIR SECURITY IS AGGRESSIVE. WE CAN'T GET AN INFORMER OR EVEN A DEVICE INSIDE.


A FEW YEARS AGO WE TRIED TO INFILTRATE ONE OF OUR OWN -- A TRULY BRAVE VOLUNTEER -- AS ONE OF THE "PROFESSIONALS."


THE RESULTS WEREN'T PRETTY. AND WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE ANY KIND OF CASE.


IT'S A BATH-HOUSE, YOU SAY?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BET...
...THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PIPES LEADING INTO AND OUT OF THERE?


Русскій
языкъ
для
дураковъ


DIESEL CITY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
SECTOR 16147


TAXI

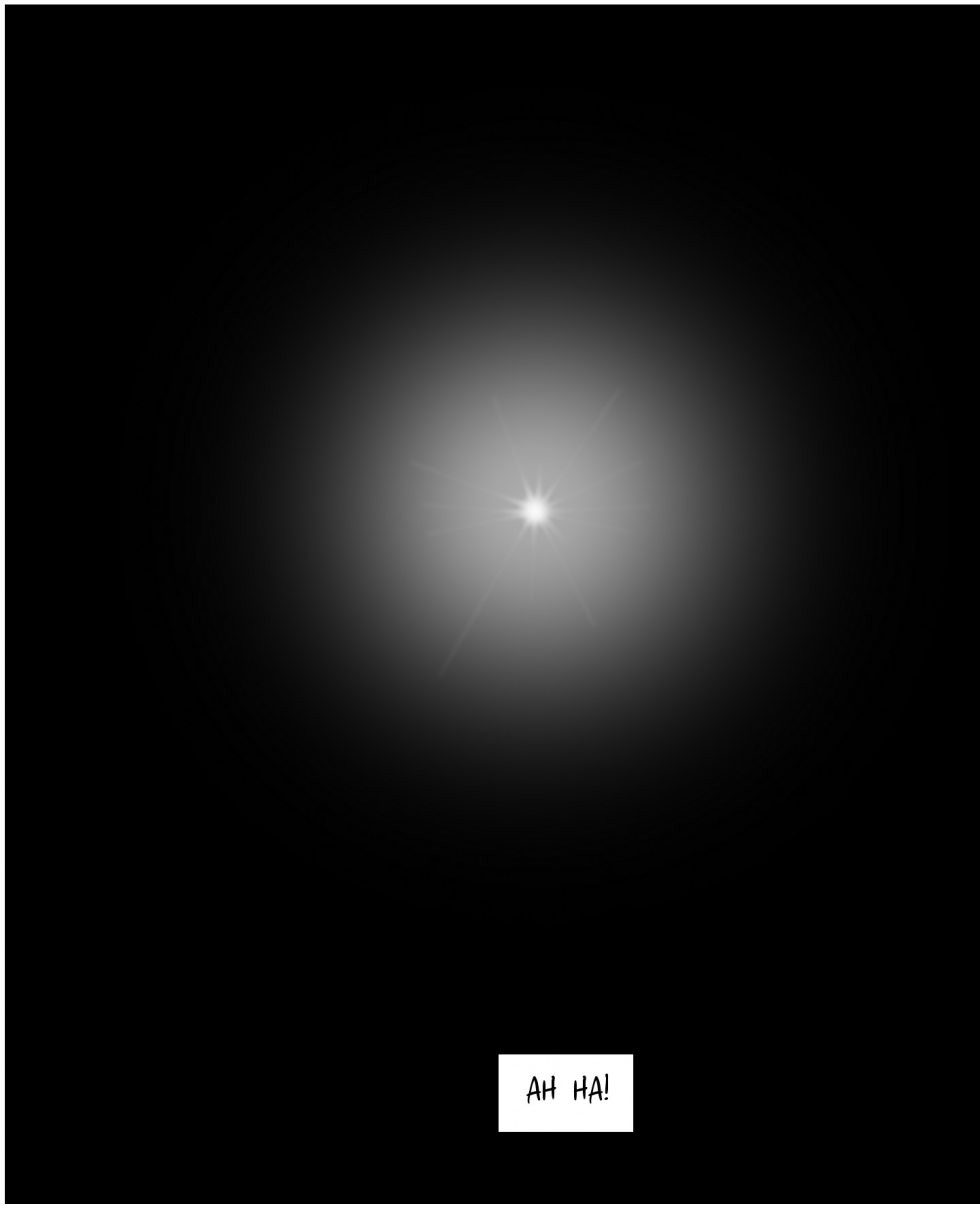

POWER
NEWARK N.J.
IRONBOUND FOUNDRY COMPANY

NEED TO FEEL MY WAY ALONG HERE...

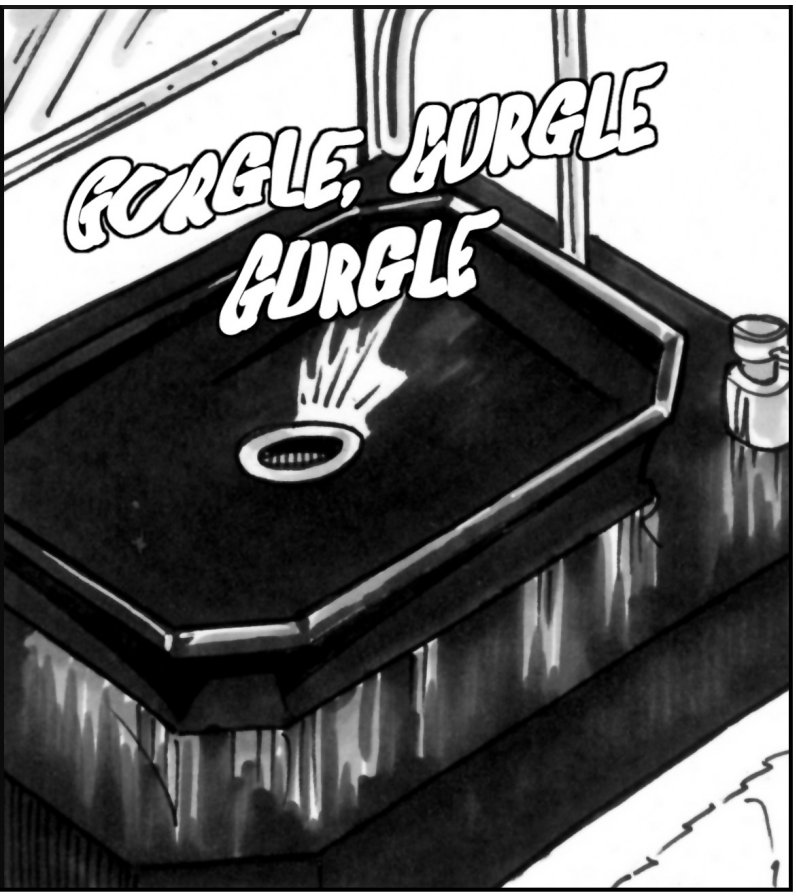
I MEMORIZED THE SEQUENCE OF TURNS BUT SEEING IT ON A CHART AND FEELING ONE'S WAY THROUGH ARE VERY DIFFERENT.

IF I GOT LOST DOWN HERE I COULD...

BETTER NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.



AH HA!


GURGLE, GURGLE
GURGLE

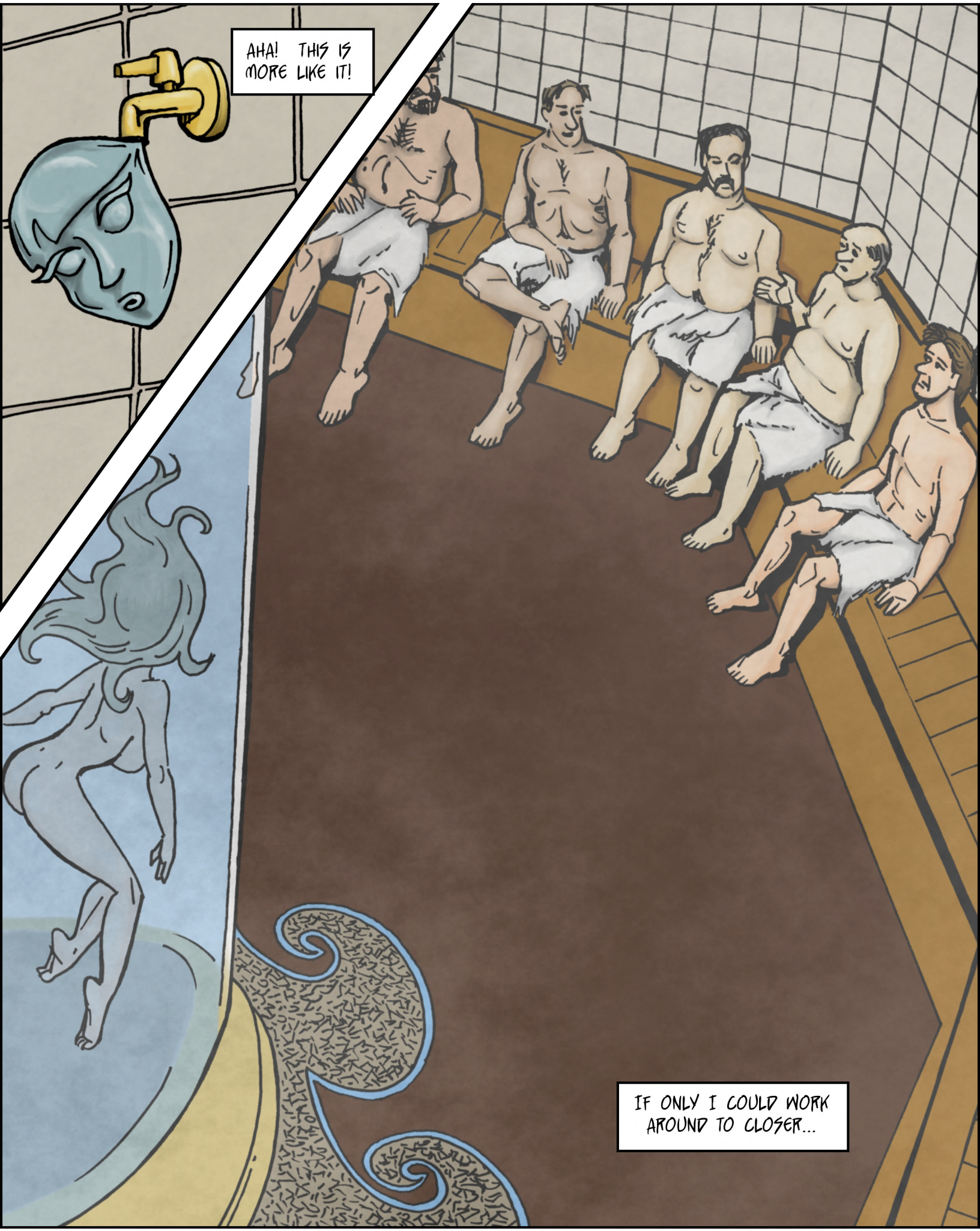

PLOOP!






I'VE BEEN A BAD BOY. I MUST BE PUNISHED.
WELL HELLO, MR. MAYOR.
SMACK!
INTERESTING AS THIS IS, IT ISN'T WHAT I CAME FOR.


ALSO INTERESTING, BUT STILL NOT IT.


AHA! THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
IF ONLY I COULD WORK AROUND TO CLOSER...

Девушка закричала на него: "А деньги?" Солдат ответил: "Мы гусары слишком почётныи брать деньги."

ХА!ХА!ХА!

Старые шутки всегда лучшие. Но теперь, товарищи, работа.

MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE
LINCOLN WAREHOUSE MUMBLE
MUMBLE поезд MUMBLE-MUMBLE

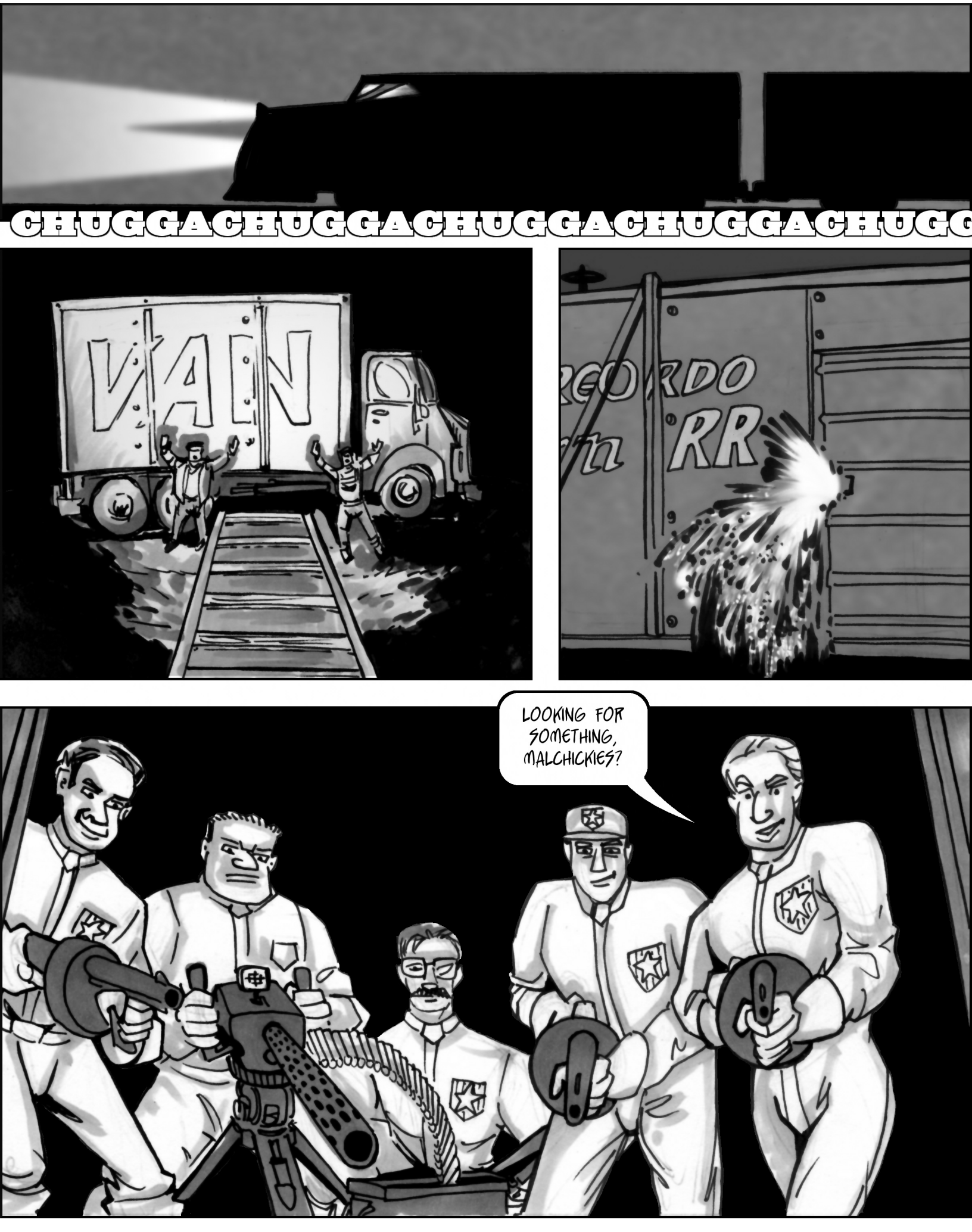

Но уран тяжелый...
SMAK!
Идиот!
BLOOP
Что?
SKITER


THEY WERE TALKING IN RUSSIAN AND I COULDN'T MAKE OUT MUCH EXCEPT SOMETHING ABOUT A TRAIN AND THE OLD LINCOLN WAREHOUSE.

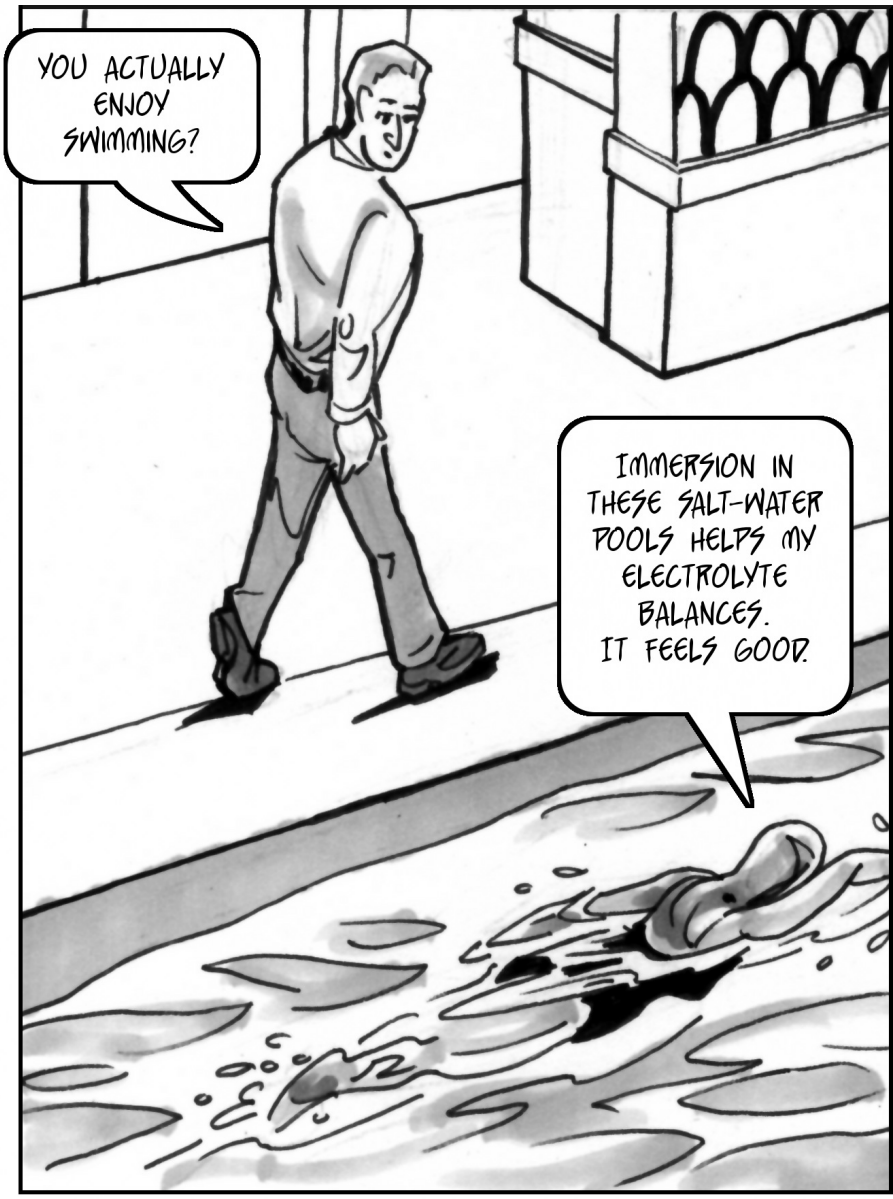

ALSO THEY GOT UPSET AT SOME POINT ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED OO-RAN. I WAS ABLE TO LOOK THAT UP...


IT'S A RUSSIAN WORD FOR SOMETHING CALLED "URANIUM."


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT "URANIUM" IS, THOUGH.


CHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGG
VAN
RR
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, MALCHICKIES?


YES, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU SIR.
I can't believe old Joe Kennedy actually called that weird jelly dame.
Maybe he thinks she's fuckable.


YOU ACTUALLY ENJOY SWIMMING?
IMMERSION IN THESE SALT-WATER POOLS HELPS MY ELECTROLYTE BALANCES. IT FEELS GOOD.


WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THIS "URANIUM" STUFF ANYWAY? WHY DOES IT GET A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?
ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR EINSTEIN IN BERLIN, YOU CAN USE IT TO MAKE SOME SORT OF UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL BOMB.
THAT'S THE THEORY, ANYWAY.


PITY THAT HORRIBLE JUGASHVILY MANAGED TO GO UNDERGROUND.
BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL CATCH HIM, DAN.


I CAN NOW DO AMAZING THINGS, DAN.
BETSY, I DON'T KNOW IF...


REALLY AMAZING THINGS...
FLOW!








RRRRRRIIP!






2B
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
of PLEASANT PRAIRIE
GUEST SPEAKER
BAYARD RUSTIN
PEACE AND
JUSTICE
FOR AL
PEOP


THAT WAS A REMARKABLE LECTURE, REVEREND.
IT WAS MOST KIND OF MR. RUSTIN TO COME ALL THIS WAY.
IT WAS A PITY VERNON COULDN'T COME TO HEAR IT. HE SEEMED SO ANGRY SOMETIMES...


HOW IS VERNON, MRS. JACKSON?
THAT BOY WORKS SO HARD UP THERE IN DIESEL CITY.
BUT THE MONEY HE SENDS REALLY HELPS, DOESN'T IT, MOTHER?


OUR FATE IN ETERNITY MATTERS MORE THAN MONEY...


KABOOM!
PEACE
SEL CITY EXPRES
GRO MEETING
OMBED IN
PLEASAN
AT LEAST 30
FEARED

Betsy Brown: goo girl



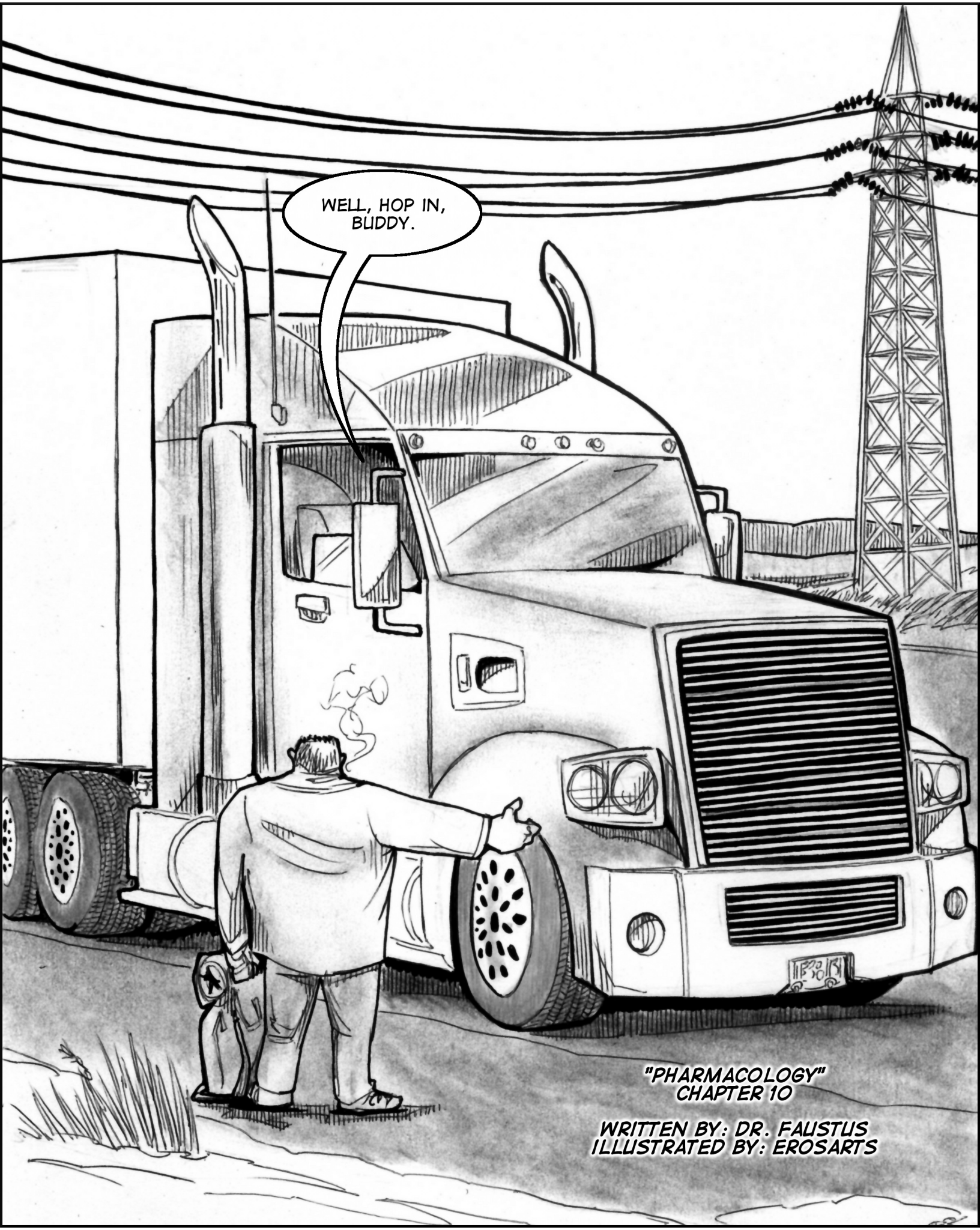

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME IX
NUMBER X
PHARMACOLOGY
200 mg
25
77
80%
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS


I THOUGHT WE HAD AN AGREEMENT: NO MORE WILDCAT EXPERIMENTS!
BUT WHAT DO OUR SOURCES NOW TELL US?


TWO GNOSIS COLLEGE STUDENTS, NEITHER WITH A HISTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, GO AND IMMOLATE EACH OTHER. ARSON INVESTIGATORS FIND SPECIALIZED DRUG PARAPHERNALIA ON THE SCENE.
YOU TWO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS?
EVIDENCE


WE HAD A DRUG THAT MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED... BUT I SWEAR WE HAD ALREADY AGREED TO NO HUMAN TESTING ON THAT ONE.
EVEN BEFORE MEETING YOU!

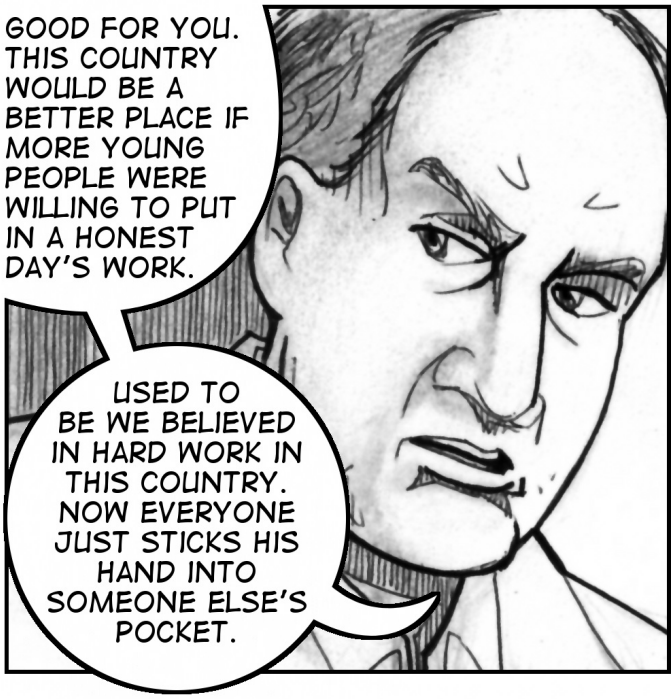

ALTHOUGH THE WE THAT AGREED WAS THREE, NOT TWO.


WELL, HOP IN, BUDDY.
"PHARMACOLOGY"
CHAPTER 10
WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS





LOOKING FOR WORK. I USED TO BE IN COLLEGE, BUT I FIGURE I LEARNED ABOUT AS MUCH AS I NEEDED TO KNOW THERE.






SO THIS IS HOW THEY ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES IN HOUSTON.
SHREKLEKH SHTOT.


MARTINI, STRAIGHT UP.
WILL THAT BE A GIN OR A VODKA MARTINI, SIR?
DO YOU SERIOUSLY MEAN TO TELL ME THERE'S SUCH A THING AS A VODKA MARTINI?
WE LIVE IN TROUBLED TIMES, SIR.
"I WAS NOT IN SAFETY, NEITHER HAD I REST, NEITHER WAS I QUIET; YET TROUBLE CAME."
THIRD DOOR AFTER THE MEN'S LOUNGE. THEY'LL BE EXPECTING YOU.
IT'S HIM.


SO HERE'S THE YOUNG MAN WHO WANTS TO BE OUR NEW COOK.
YOU BROUGHT SAMPLES?

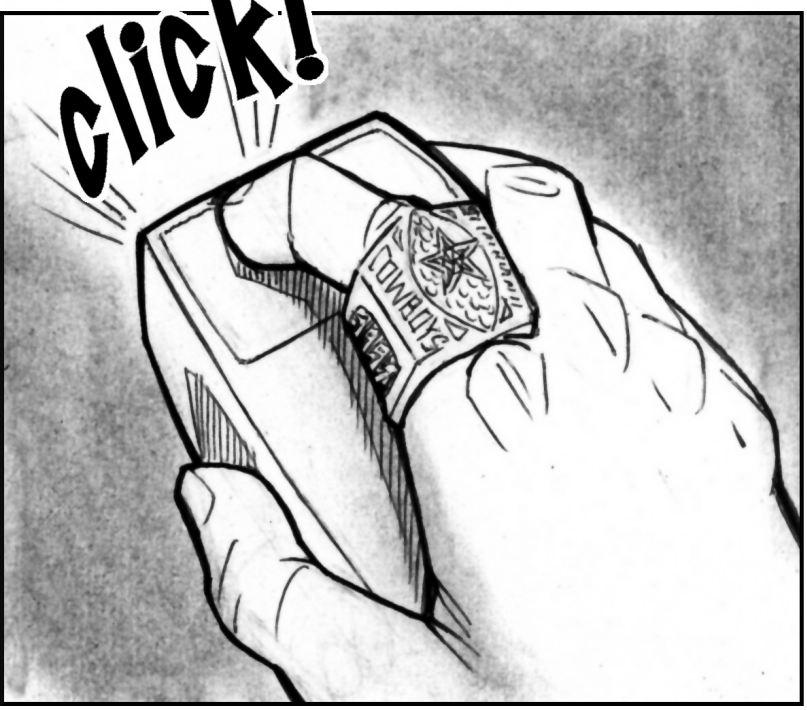

WE TESTED A SAMPLE. PHARMACEUTICAL GRADE.
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU MAKE, SON?
SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS. LSD. ALL PHARMA GRADE AND IN WHATEVER QUANTITIES YOU REQUIRE WITH A BIG ENOUGH LAB AND A STAFF. THOUGH I WONDER AT THE ABILITY TO KEEP IT DISCREET...
AMAZING. IT'S LIKE THAT SHOW ON TEEVEE. YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE GUY WITH ALL THE CHICKEN RESTAURANTS.
SON, THIS HERE IS ***HOUSTON***. A ***BIDNESS-FRIENDLY*** TOWN. YOU COULD VENT ***MUSTARD GAS*** AND AIN'T NO ONE GONNA TELL THE DIFFERENCE. SURE AIN'T GONNA HAVE TROUBLE FROM NO GUBBIMENT...
HOW MUCH ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FOR YOUR... SERVICES?
"I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE MONEY, SIR."
"WHAT ***ARE*** YOU INTERESTED IN, THEN?"


I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU AND I CAN WORK TOGETHER ON THOSE TERMS.
THANK YOU, SIR. I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO.
MANUEL, BRING SOME DRINKS.
INTERESTING... DECOR YOU HAVE HERE, SIR.
YOU LIKE IT? I SAW SOMETHING LIKE IT IN TOKYO ONCE AND DECIDED TO PUT TOGETHER MY OWN SETUP HERE.
BUT GIRLS IN TANKS AIN'T NOTHIN'. LE' ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT'S ***REAL*** IMPRESSIVE...
CARL, BRING UP THE FILLY.
MAKE SURE SHE'S GOOD AND RILED.





YOU LIKE HER? I BOUGHT HER. FROM SOME BUSINESS ASSOCIATES OF MINE IN THE EMIRATE OF MUNAI, WHO DID QUITE A NUMBER ON HER. WATCH THIS.

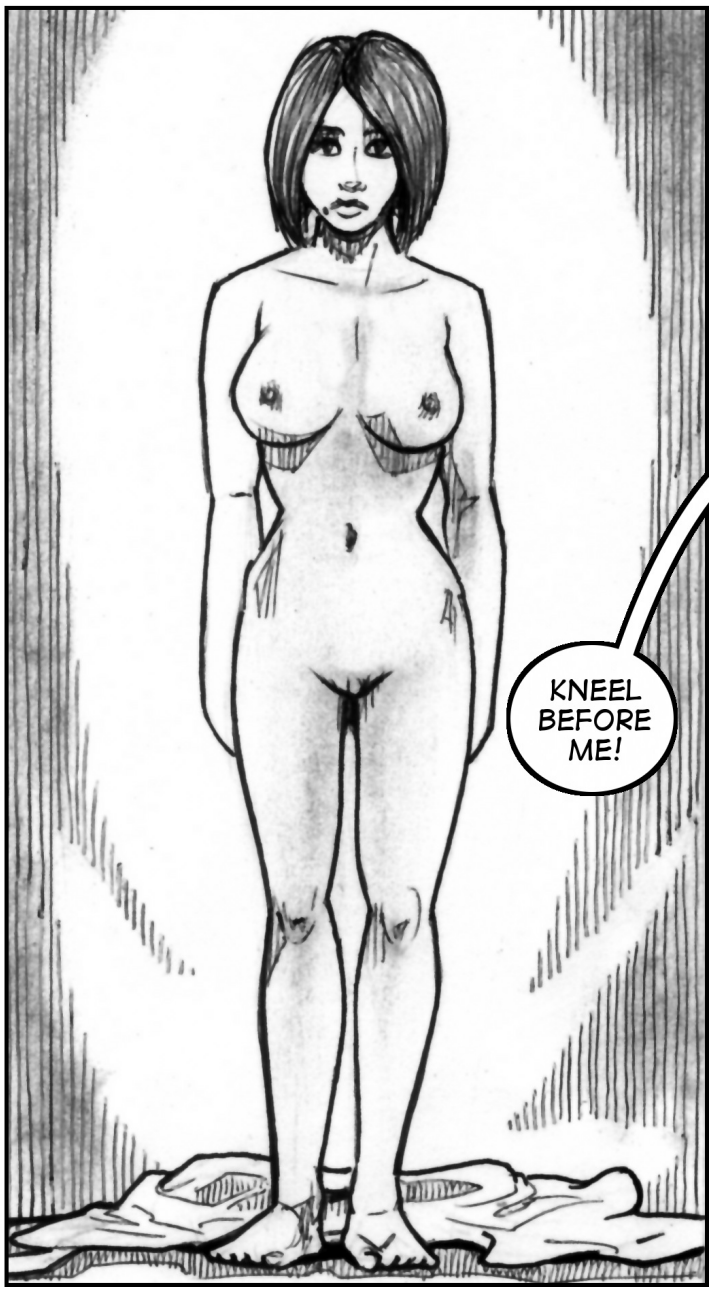


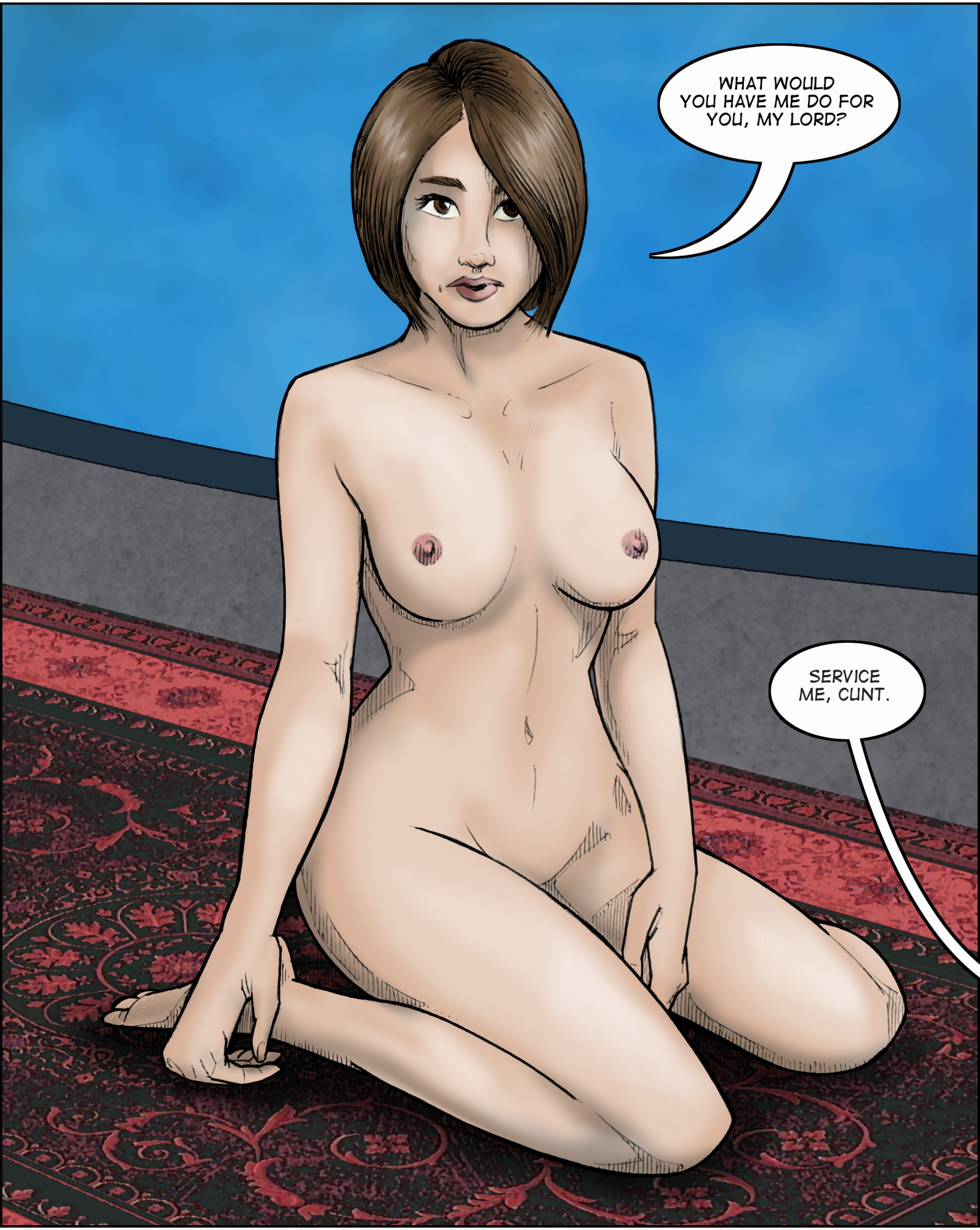



SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME NOW, YOU LITTLE BITCH?

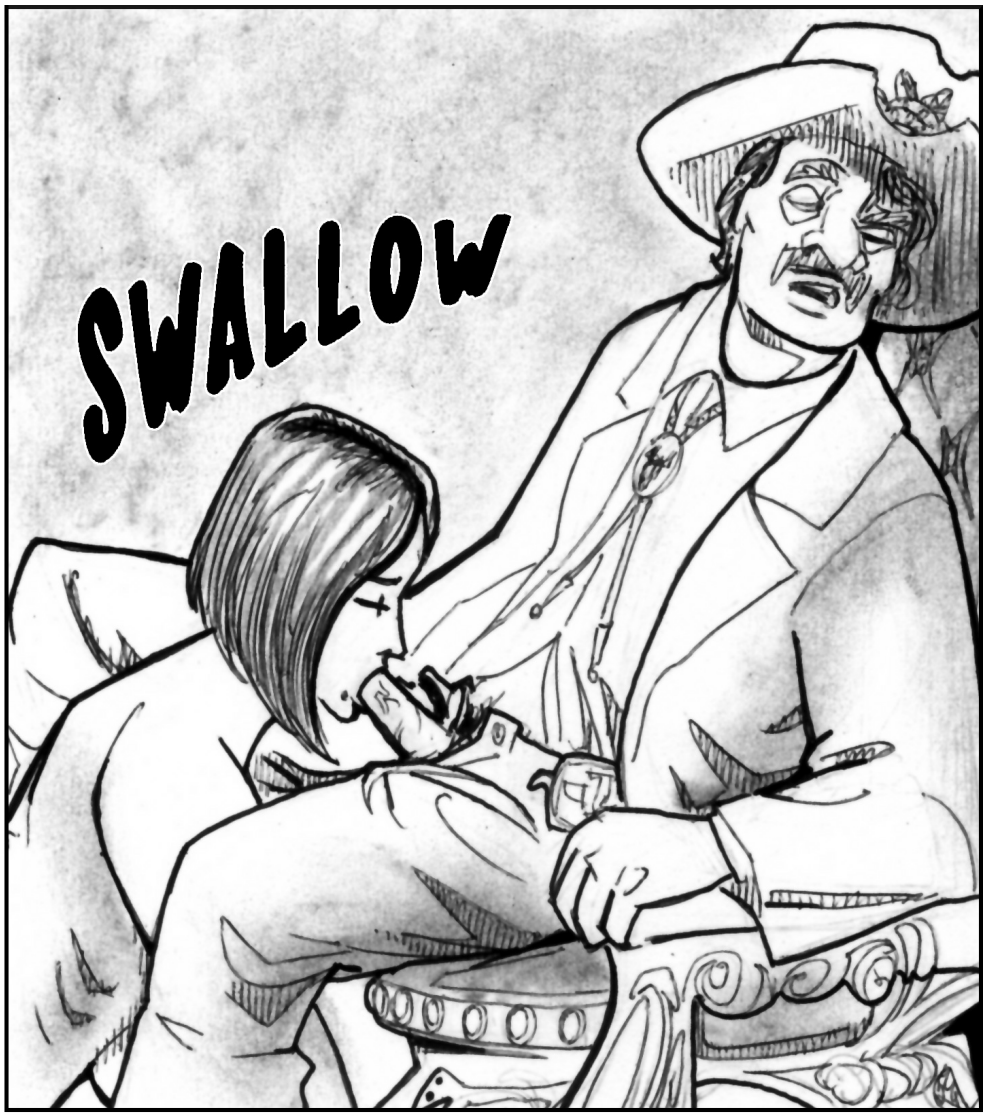

I... I... LOVE YOU, MY LORD.
GOOD. STRIP!




KNEEL BEFORE ME!


WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO FOR YOU, MY LORD?
SERVICE ME, CUNT.


YOU SEE? WIRED TO BE COMPLETELY COMPLIANT.
THEY SAY THEY'VE FIXED HER AMYGDALA SO THAT SHE ACTUALLY FEELS A LONGING TO DO THIS.


SWALLOW

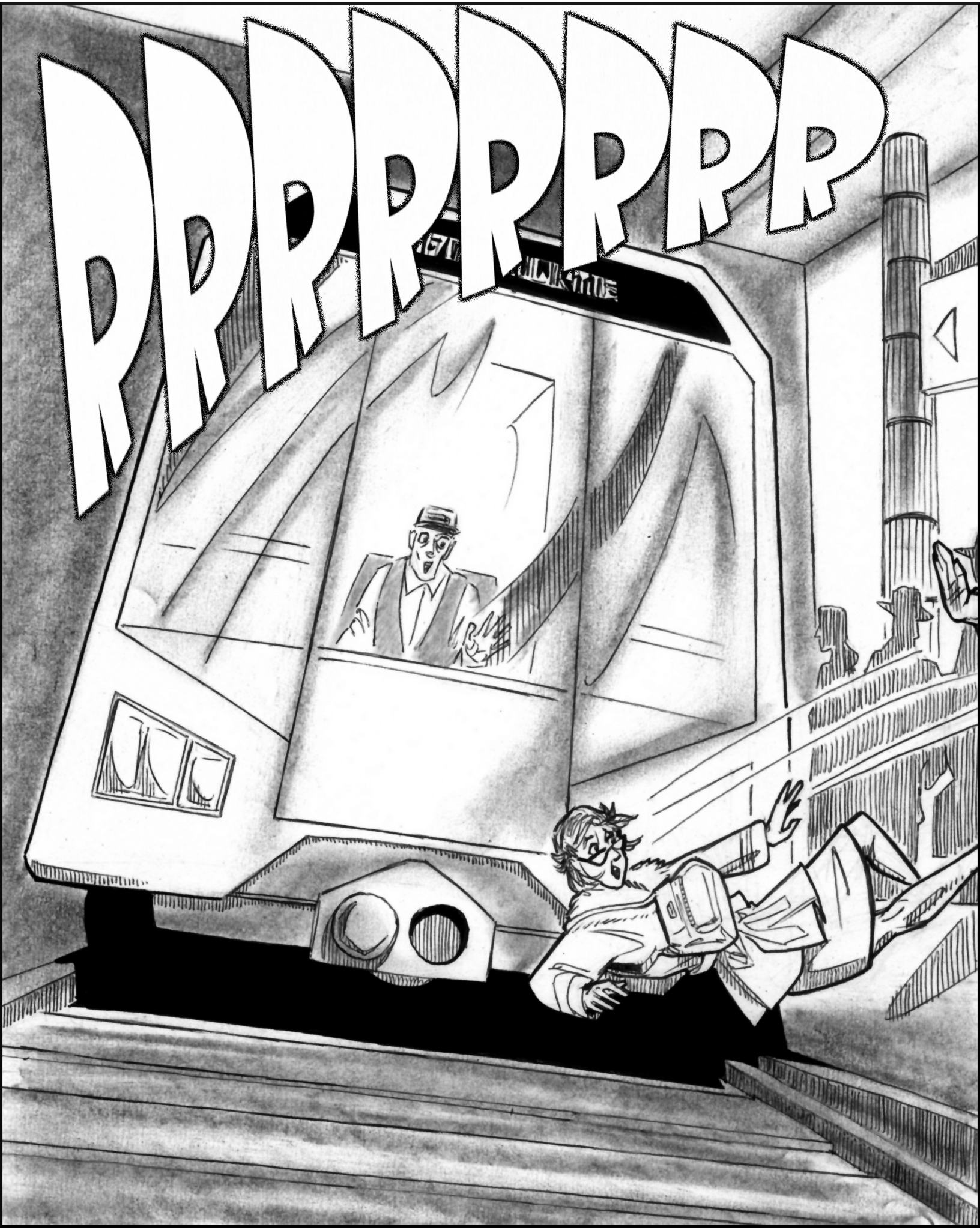

JUST FOR FUN WE CAN CLICK HER BACK AGAIN...
BZZT

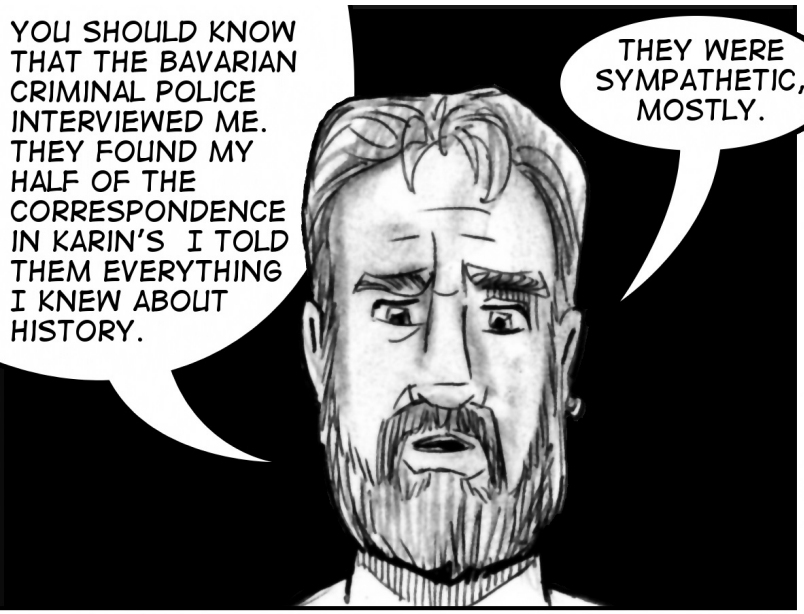

YOU FILTHY BASTARD! I'LL KILL...


SMAK
JUST A BIT OF A USEFUL DEMONSTRATION THERE, BOY. IN CASE YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF MAN I AM.
WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF...
ZIP!
whimper
NO DOUBTS ABOUT THAT AT ALL, SIR.

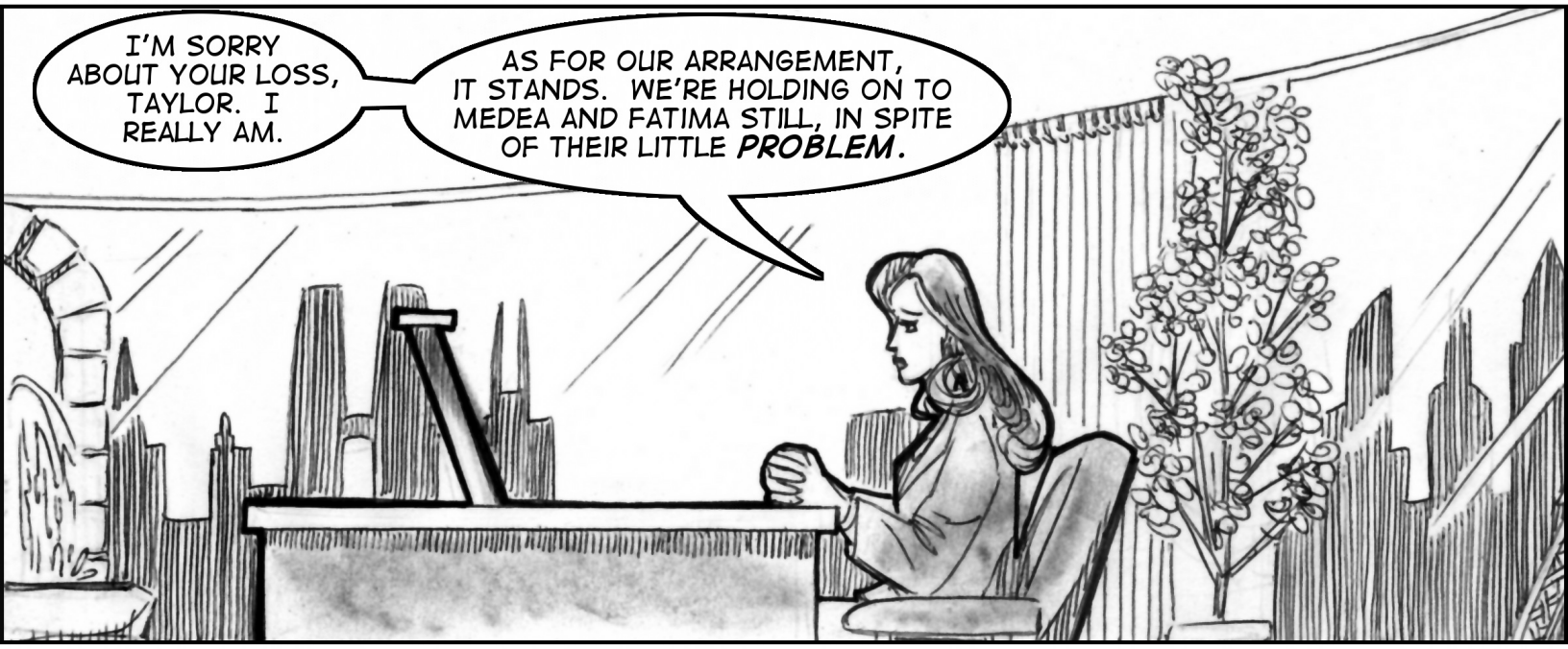

MEANWHILE, IN MUNICH...
Taylor Chase
S.U. 2634
Gnosis College
Pleasant Prairie

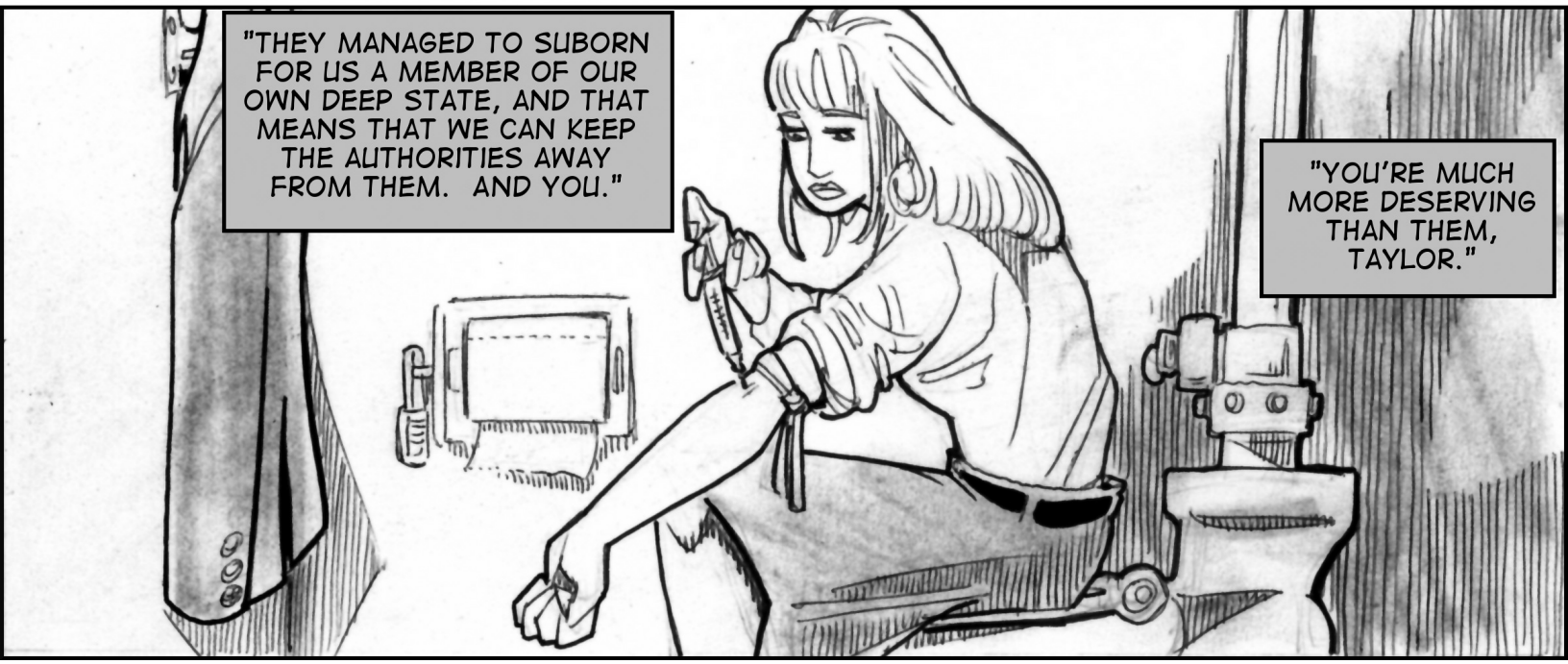

RRRRRRRR
Nymphenburger Straße
Maillingerstraße
Lothstraße
Lift
Maillingerstraße
WAPPEN-APOTHEKE
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR


RRRRRRRR

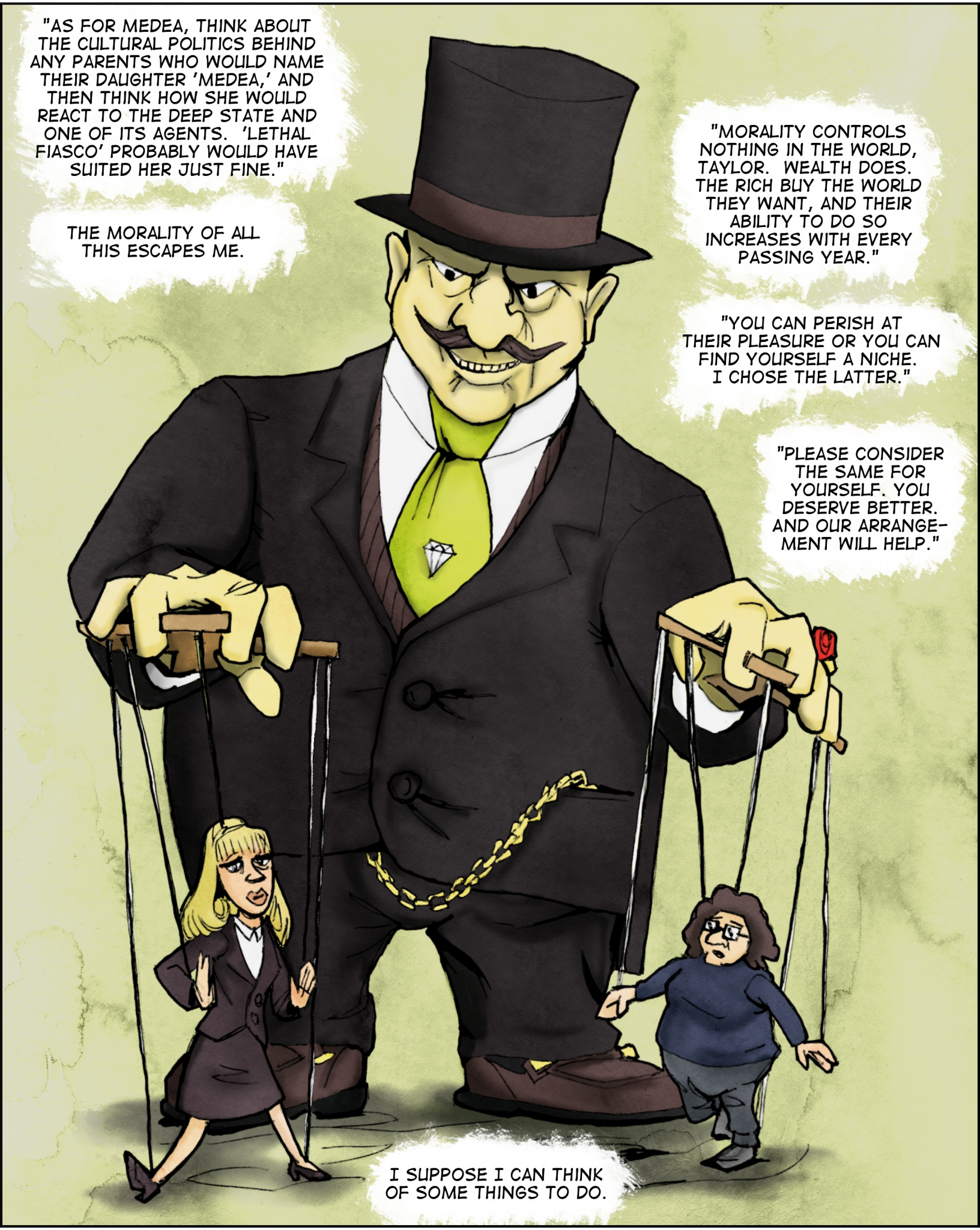

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE BAVARIAN CRIMINAL POLICE INTERVIEWED ME. THEY FOUND MY HALF OF THE CORRESPONDENCE IN KARIN'S I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT HISTORY.
THEY WERE SYMPATHETIC, MOSTLY.


THEY WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHY, BUT I THINK KARIN MAY HAVE TRIGGERED SOMETHING IN THE DEEP STATE. OF GERMANY, RUSSIA, WHO KNOWS?
AFTER THIS I CAN'T SAY I MUCH CARE WHETHER YOU PULL OUR ARRANGEMENT OR NOT.

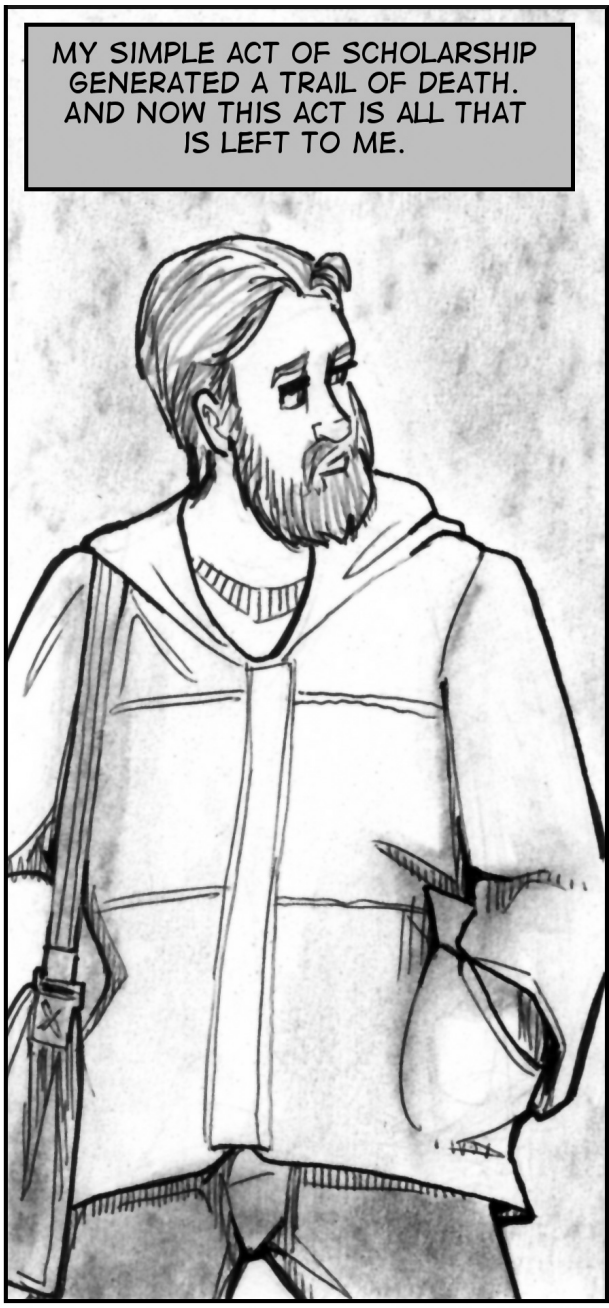

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR LOSS, TAYLOR. I REALLY AM.
AS FOR OUR ARRANGEMENT, IT STANDS. WE'RE HOLDING ON TO MEDEA AND FATIMA STILL, IN SPITE OF THEIR LITTLE PROBLEM.


"THEY MANAGED TO SUBORN FOR US A MEMBER OF OUR OWN DEEP STATE, AND THAT MEANS THAT WE CAN KEEP THE AUTHORITIES AWAY FROM THEM. AND YOU."
"YOU'RE MUCH MORE DESERVING THAN THEM, TAYLOR."

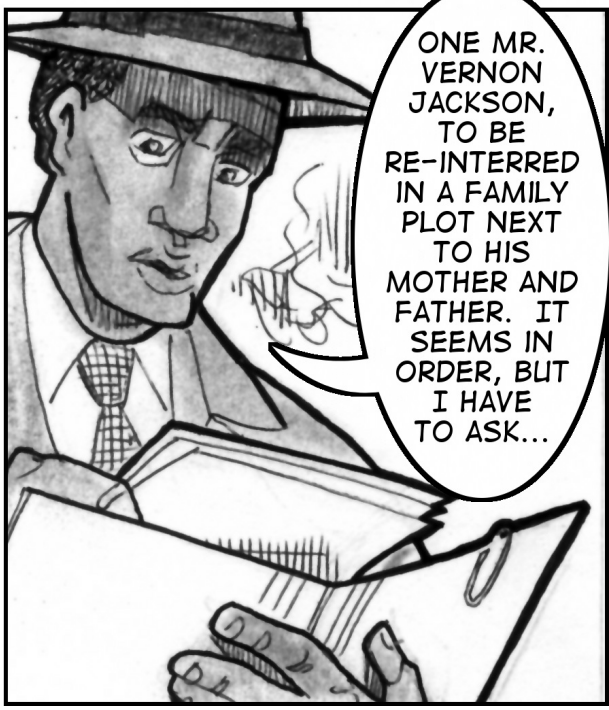

"I'M SORT OF SURPRISED THINGS WORKED AS WELL AS THEY DID. THE DRUGS ADMINISTERED TO THAT GOVERNMENT AGENT USUALLY JUST KILL PEOPLE."
YOU MEAN, MOST LIKELY THE WHOLE THING WOULD JUST HAVE BEEN A LETHAL FIASCO.
"WE TOOK THE TROUBLE TO SECURE THEIR LAB NOTES FIRST."
HOW CAN YOU JUST PLAY WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT, IRIS?
"WE OFFERED THEM A LOTTERY TICKET. THEY PLAYED AND THEY WON. AND THEY HAD GOOD REASONS FOR PLAYING."
"FATIMA'S FAMILY, LIKE PRETTY MUCH ALL PALESTINIANS LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION, LIVES IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SHE'D TAKE ANY RISK TO HELP THEM. AND NOW SHE CAN."

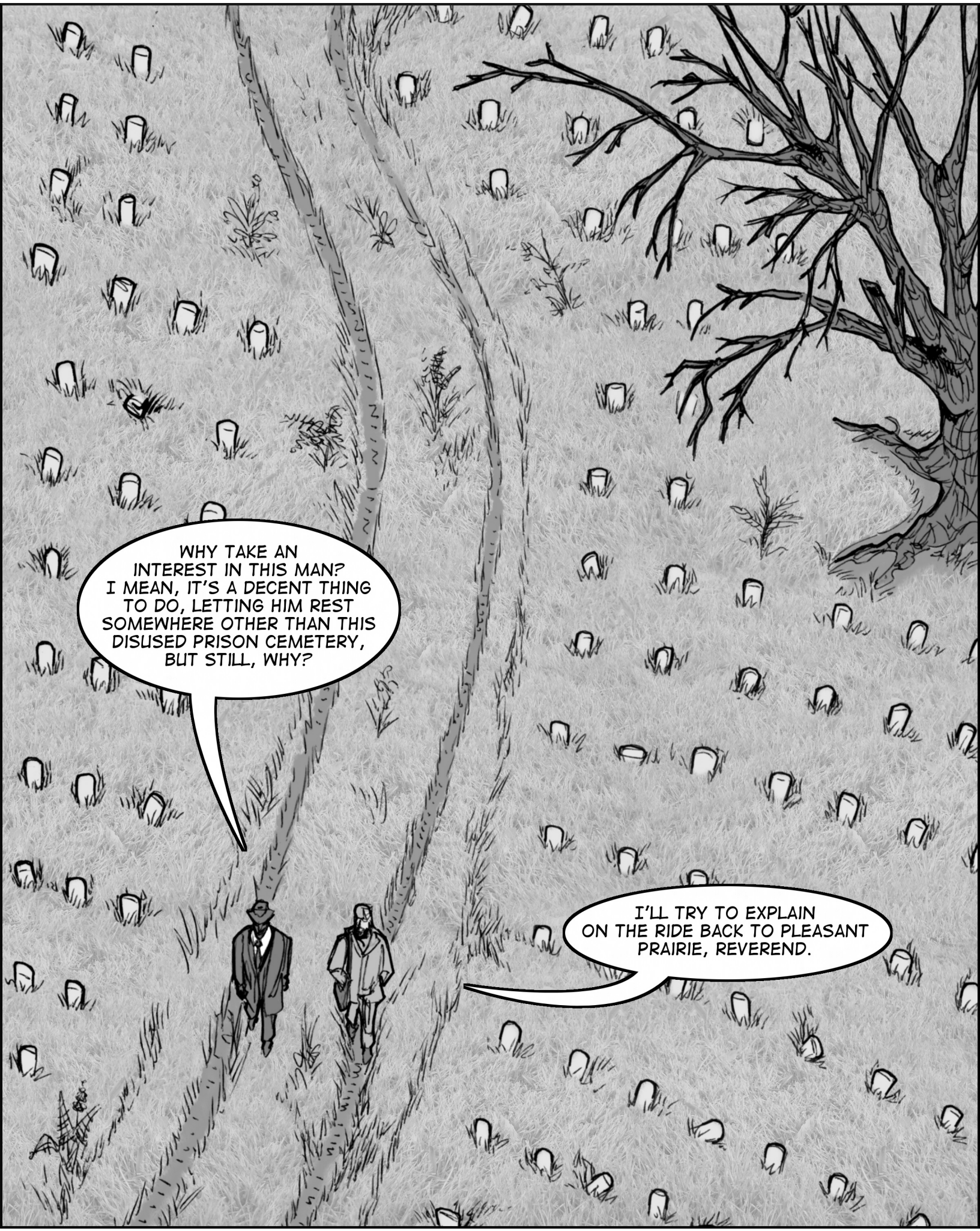

"AS FOR MEDEA, THINK ABOUT THE CULTURAL POLITICS BEHIND ANY PARENTS WHO WOULD NAME THEIR DAUGHTER 'MEDEA,' AND THEN THINK HOW SHE WOULD REACT TO THE DEEP STATE AND ONE OF ITS AGENTS. 'LETHAL FIASCO' PROBABLY WOULD HAVE SUITED HER JUST FINE."
THE MORALITY OF ALL THIS ESCAPES ME.
"MORALITY CONTROLS NOTHING IN THE WORLD, TAYLOR. WEALTH DOES. THE RICH BUY THE WORLD THEY WANT, AND THEIR ABILITY TO DO SO INCREASES WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR."
"YOU CAN PERISH AT THEIR PLEASURE OR YOU CAN FIND YOURSELF A NICHE. I CHOSE THE LATTER."
"PLEASE CONSIDER THE SAME FOR YOURSELF. YOU DESERVE BETTER. AND OUR ARRANGE-MENT WILL HELP."
I SUPPOSE I CAN THINK OF SOME THINGS TO DO.

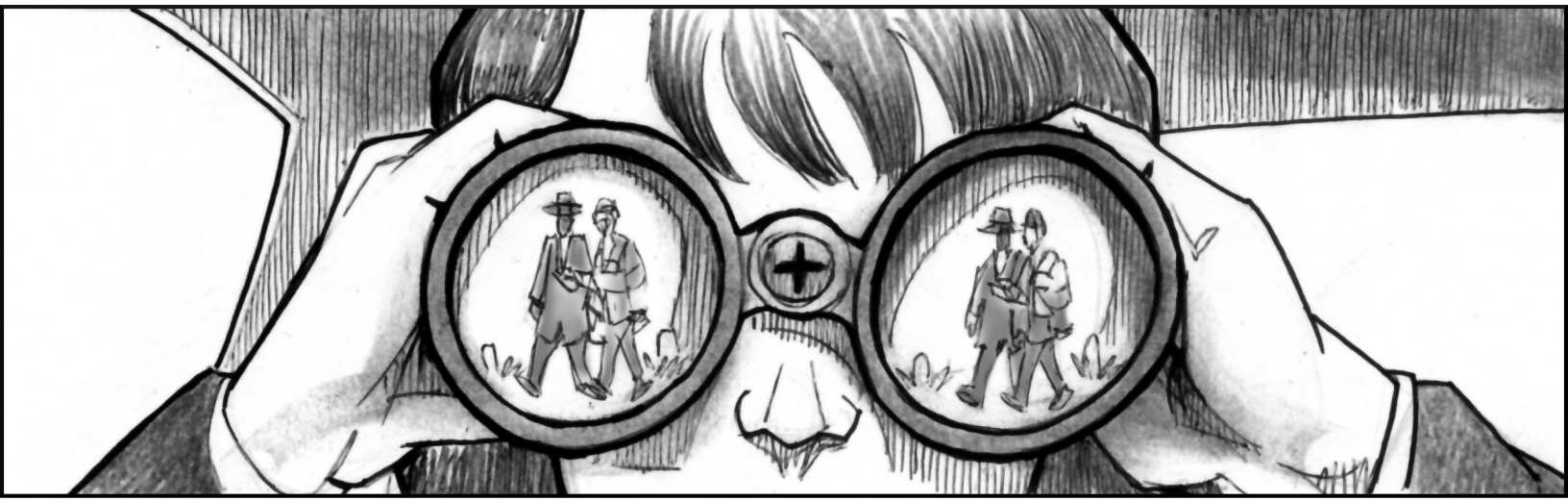

ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS A LITTLE HISTORY, AND PERHAPS RESTORE THE MEMORY OF A MAN UNJUSTLY FORGOTTEN.


MY SIMPLE ACT OF SCHOLARSHIP GENERATED A TRAIL OF DEATH. AND NOW THIS ACT IS ALL THAT IS LEFT TO ME.


MR. CHASE?
REVEREND WILLIAMS. THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE. I HAVE THE LEGAL PAPERWORK FOR THE RE-INTERMENT, INCLUDING FAMILY CONSENT.


ONE MR. VERNON JACKSON, TO BE RE-INTERRED IN A FAMILY PLOT NEXT TO HIS MOTHER AND FATHER. IT SEEMS IN ORDER, BUT I HAVE TO ASK...

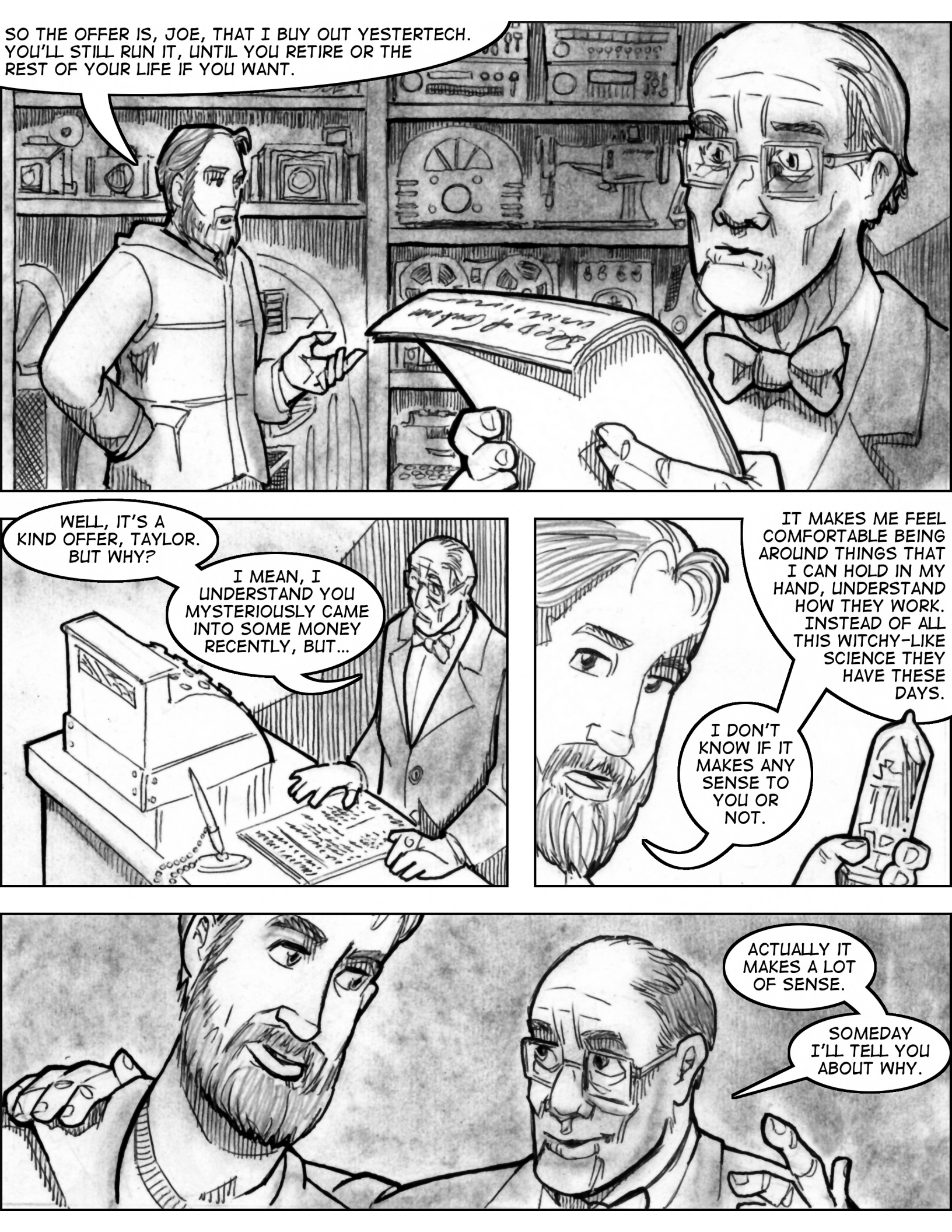

WHY TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS MAN? I MEAN, IT'S A DECENT THING TO DO, LETTING HIM REST SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN THIS DISUSED PRISON CEMETERY, BUT STILL, WHY?
I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN ON THE RIDE BACK TO PLEASANT PRAIRIE, REVEREND.




WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE AT ALL, YOU KNOW. BOSSES WERE CLEAR ABOUT THAT.
SO WHY'D YOU SHOW ME THAT BAVARIAN KRIPO DOSSIER?


YEAH, AND WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THIS TOXIC CASE?
MAYBE I'M DEVELOPING A CRUSH ON YOUNG MR. TAYLOR CHASE. EVER THINK OF THAT?

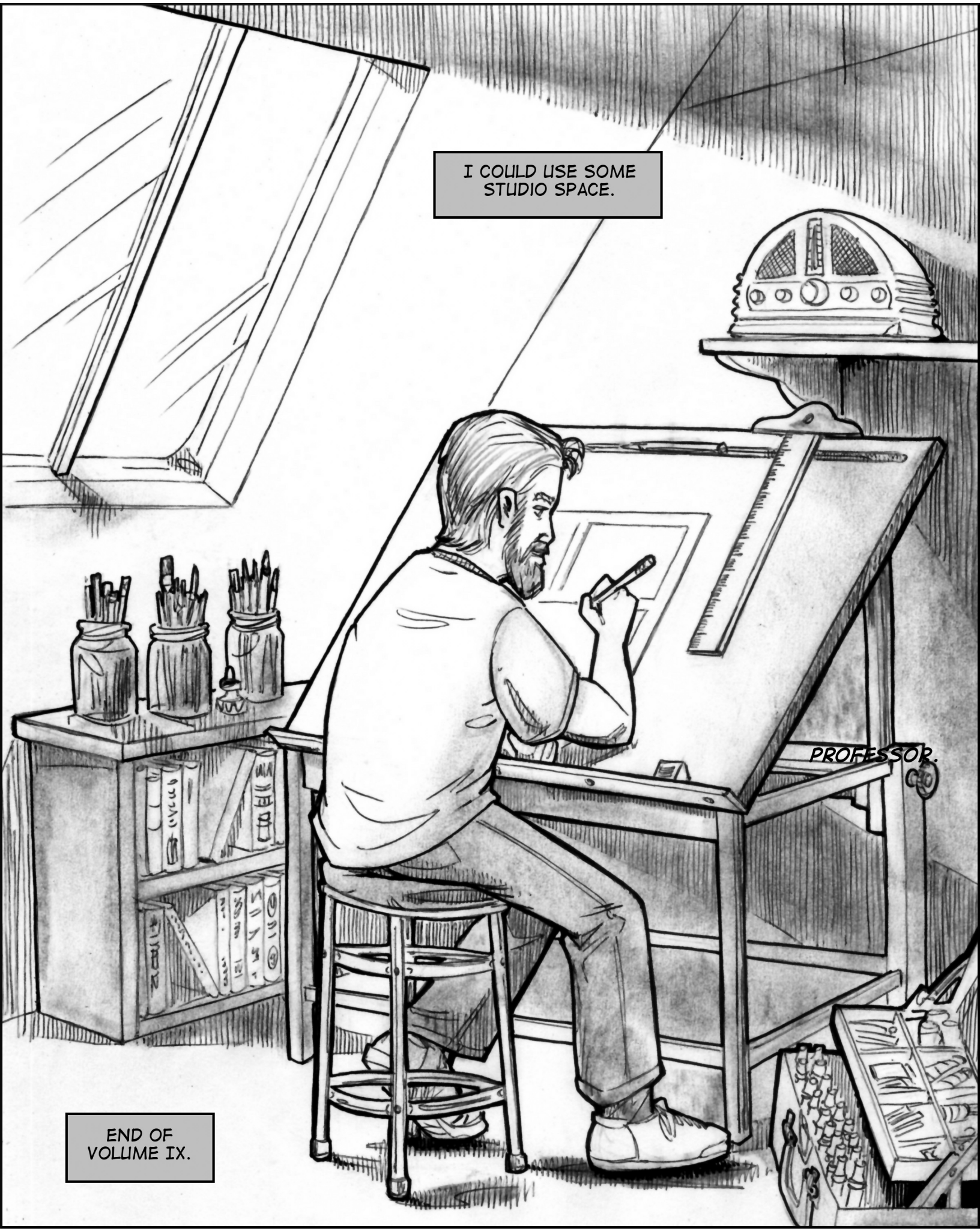

YOU KNOW, THERE'S STILL THAT IGOR ZEITLIN KID WHO SKIPPED BAIL AFTER THE RIOT AND WENT MISSING.
SHIFT
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A TALENTED CHEMIST...

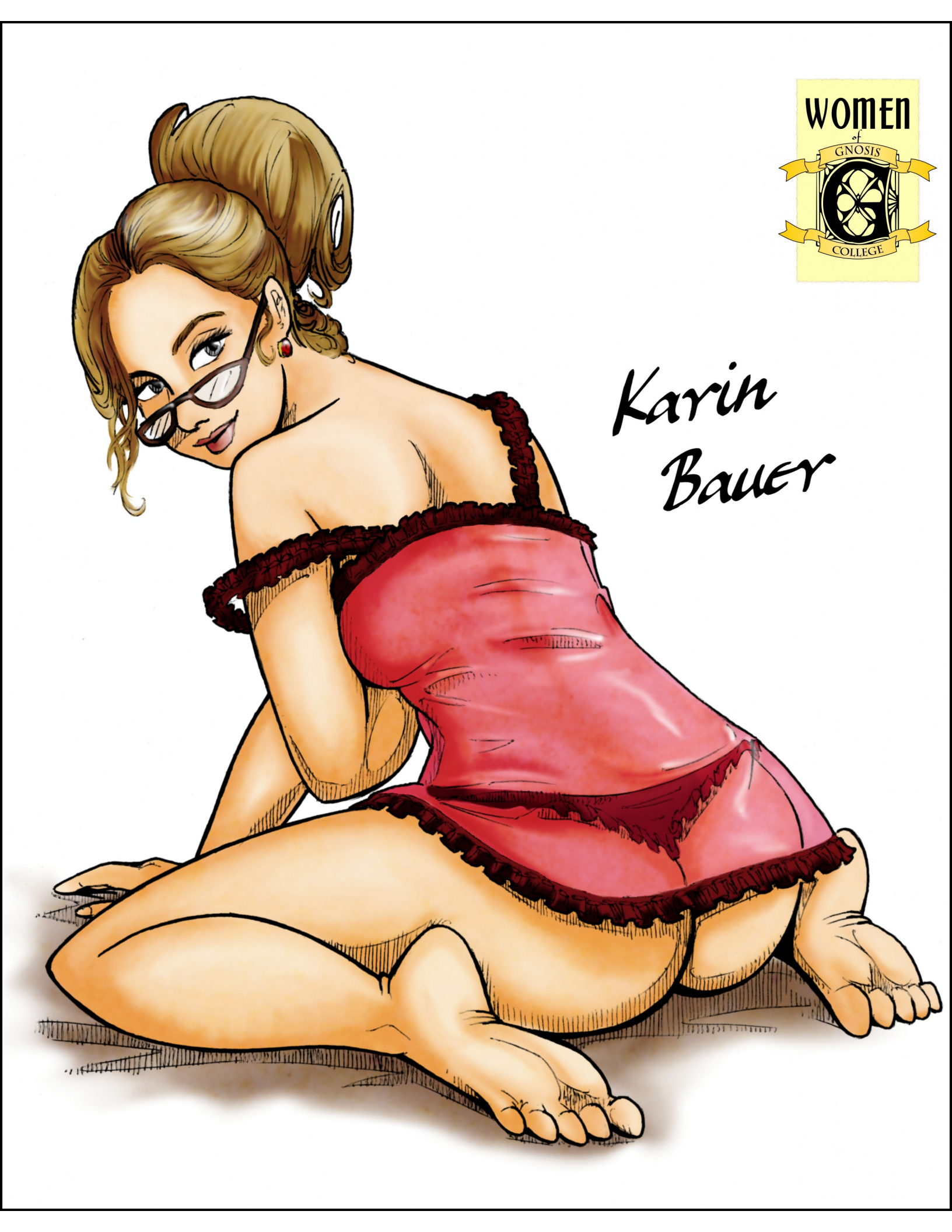

SO THE OFFER IS, JOE, THAT I BUY OUT YESTERTECH. YOU'LL STILL RUN IT, UNTIL YOU RETIRE OR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IF YOU WANT.
WELL, IT'S A KIND OFFER, TAYLOR. BUT WHY?
I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND YOU MYSTERIOUSLY CAME INTO SOME MONEY RECENTLY, BUT...
IT MAKES ME FEEL COMFORTABLE BEING AROUND THINGS THAT I CAN HOLD IN MY HAND, UNDERSTAND HOW THEY WORK. INSTEAD OF ALL THIS WITCHY-LIKE SCIENCE THEY HAVE THESE DAYS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT MAKES ANY SENSE TO YOU OR NOT.
ACTUALLY IT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE.
SOMEDAY I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT WHY.


RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, THERE'S WORK TO DO. SOMETHING TO RESTORE.
SLICE!


IT'S AN OLD LIONEL MODEL RAILROAD SET. NEEDS SOME WORK, BUT I THINK IT WILL BE FUN.


YEAH. "IL FAUT CULTIVER NOTRE JARDIN."
BY THE WAY, IS THAT OLD ROOM UPSTAIRS STILL AVAILABLE?
SANTA FE
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I COULD USE SOME STUDIO SPACE.
PROFESSOR.
END OF VOLUME IX.


WOMEN
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
Karin
Bauer